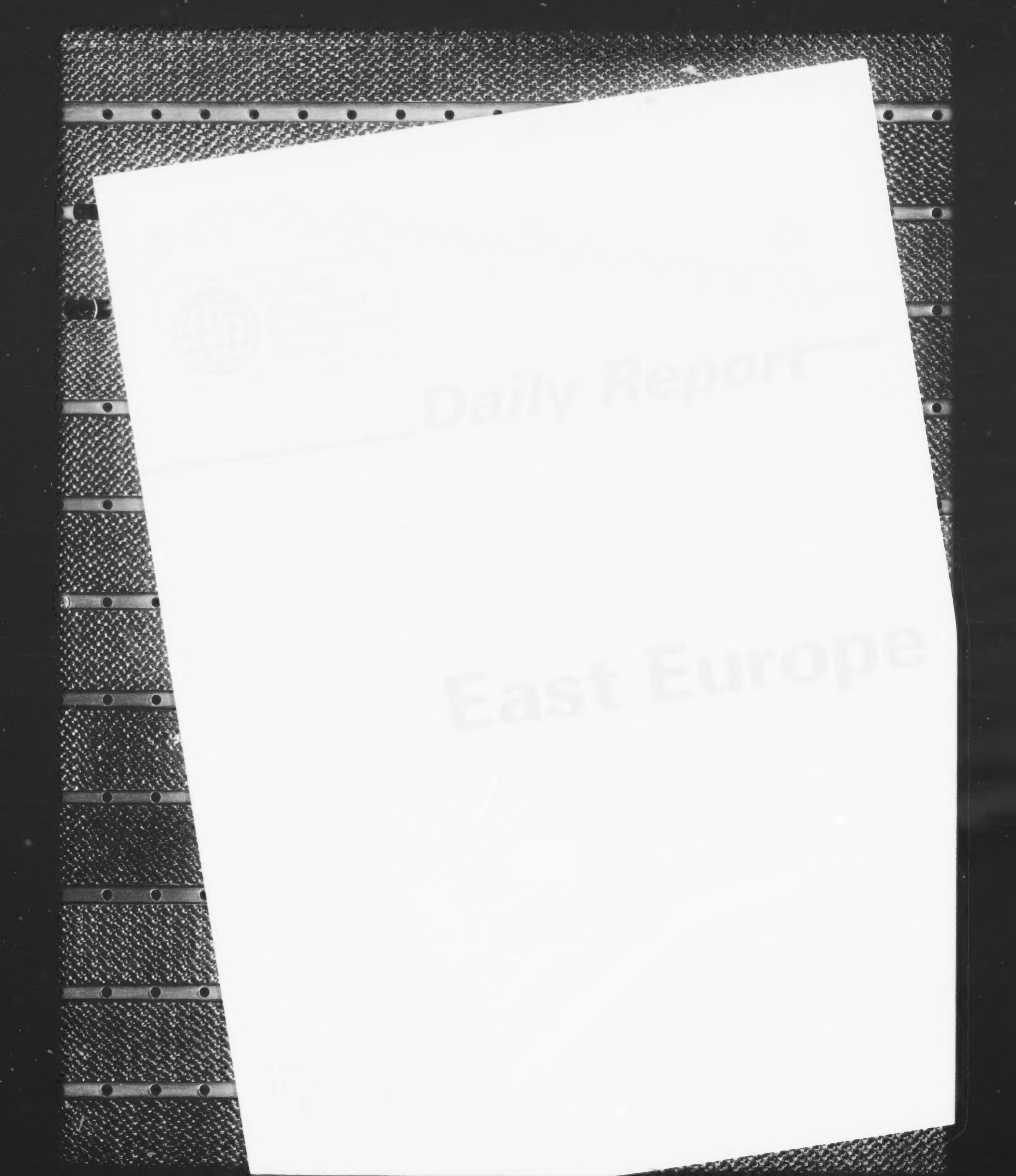
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CEMA Committee Focuses on Communications

AU252045 Sofia BTA in English 1925 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Sofia, March 25 (BTA)—The problems related to the introduction of digital multiplex systems and optical lines in the communications network of the CMEA-member states were the main topic of a three-day session held here.

The session discussed the stages in the introduction of this type of system, the degree of their utilization in conformity with the actual possibilities and needs and the ways for their simultaneous exploitation with the now operating analog multiplex systems.

The session which was attended by experts of Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR, Cuba, the USSR, Poland, Romania and Czechoslovakia reviewed a comprehensive programme for the introduction of optical lines and systems in the communications networks of the CMEA-member states up to the year 2000. It sets the terms and the stages of the introduction, the sphere of application and the methods and means for their technical servicing.

A protocol was signed on the results of the session.

GDR Delegation Attends

LD250948 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1300 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Sofia, 24 Mar (ADN)—The 41st session of the CEMA Planning Committee ended Thursday after 3 days of discussions in Sofia. Taking part in the session were the chairman of the central planning organs of the CEMA countries and Yugoslavia. The session was chaired by Stoyan Ovcharov, Bulgarian minister of economics and planning.

The GDR delegation was led by Gerhard Schuerer, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Planning Commission. The delegation leaders at the CEMA session were received for a friendly talk by Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the BCP and chairman of the Bulgarian State Council. They met with Georgi Atanasov, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers.

The committee discussed the draft collective plan for international socialist division of labor for 1991-2005, which was worked out to realize the resolution of the 43rd (extraordinary) CEMA session, and endorsed it for submission to the CEMA Executive Committee and the forthcoming 44th CEMA session.

The discussions centered on the strategic aims of further deepening and improving cooperation and developing socialist economic integration. Plans include measures for deepening and expanding cooperation between CEMA countries in the most important sectors of the economy, particularly in engineering and the electronics industry; in chemistry and metallurgy; and in securing supplies of raw materials, fuels, and energy carriers; in the production of food and consumer goods; in the field of transport and communications; and in the development of nonmaterial sectors. They discussed the chief paths to improving cooperation between the CEMA countries.

At the committee session they also discussed the draft program for coordinating economic plans for the period 1991-1995. They agreed that the plan coordination for the period 1991-1995 at the level of the central state bodies and of local bodies and factories will contribute to the development of the international socialist division of labor and to the solution of the tasks of the CEMA integrated program of scientific-technological progress up to the year 2000.

The draft long-term programs for multilateral cooperation between the CEMA countries and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Republic of Cuba, and the People's Republic of Mongolia were discussed and endorsed for submission to the Executive Committee and the council session. The discussion centered on trends and measures for deepening economic relations, directed at developing the economies of these countries and at their increased participation in the international socialist division of labor.

During the committee meeting there were a number of consultations between the chairmen of the central planning bodies of the CEMA countries. The meeting passed in an atmosphere of friendship, comradely cooperation and full mutual understanding.

Briefs

CEMA Chemical Industry Committee

BUDAPEST, March 25 (MTI)—The 71st session of the CMEA chemical industry standing committee ended Friday in Balatonfured with the signing of a protocol. Delegations from Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Cuba, Poland, Hungary, the German Democratic Republic, Romania, the Soviet Union, Vietnam and Yugoslavia attended the three-day event. Participants reviewed implementation of the complex CMEA programme related to scientific progress and stated that more than 100 economic and civil law contracts were concluded in the last year to solve the related tasks. They agreed on the order of coordinating the 1991-95 national economic plans of chemical industry, cellulose industry and microbiological products, and the deadlines to be observed. In accordance with the work plan of the CMEA Executive Committee, a report was compiled on developing the production specialization and cooperation of chemical industry products that are difficult to acquire. [Excerpt] [*LD260111 Budapest MTI in English 1919 GMT 25 Mar 88 LD*]

SFRY Envoy Proposes Stockholm Talks Continue

LD252035 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1900 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Vienna, March 25 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav delegation head, Ambassador Ignac Golob proposed on behalf of the neutral and non-aligned countries at today's plenary session that the Stockholm conference on measures of trust and disarmament be continued and within it the negotiations of 23 bloc countries.

Today's plenary session is the close of the fifth stage of the Vienna CSCE.

The group of N-N [neutral and non-aligned] countries requests that the negotiations be held within the Stockholm conference in order to preserve the integrity of the CSCE and the N-N countries' legitimate individual interests of security and defence.

Under the proposal, the functioning of the negotiations and their results would be discussed by the next CSCE meeting. The proposal envisages that Helsinki host the CSCE after Vienna.

In the meantime the 23 bloc countries would be obliged to regularly and in detail inform the conference on trust—continued Stockholm conference—, ie all 35 CSCE countries, on the negotiations.

The N-N countries announced that they were preparing joint proposals for all other open or disputed question in the closing document.

If no serious obstacles appear the Vienna CSCE could adopt a joint document in June or July this year.

Hungarian Envoy Assesses Talks

LD252259 Budapest MTI in English
2119 GMT 25 Mar

[Text] Budapest, March 25 (MTI)—The fifth round of the recently ended Vienna follow-up talks yielded results, which are modest but promising and carry the germs of a matterful agreement. This is now the work of the more than two month long conference period was evaluated by the head of the Hungarian delegation at the closing session on Friday.

The Hungarian speaker pointed out that in recent times several noteworthy steps were taken during the elaboration of the final document of the follow-up meeting. As is seen in the circles of the negotiations' participants the flexibility and openness improves. However, it should not be lost out of sight that the hard work comes now and further great efforts are needed.

He listed among the results of the round that the representatives of 23 Warsaw treaty and NATO countries at the same time with the follow-up meeting at their consultations in the Austrian capital accepted two new chapters to the mandates of the negotiations to be held on the reduction of the European armed forces and conventional weapons. As he told these texts carry a compromise of principles and meet the interests of all participants to the consultations and promote that the negotiations be started this year. A general understanding was reached that the so-called double purpose weapons—which could be used with both conventional and nuclear warheads—should not be left out from the issues of the European disarmament forum of the future, but it remains to be solved how the understanding could be expressed in the text of the mandate.

The ambassador declared: Hungary favourably accepted the Austrian initiative that the two planned European security forums: the talks on the armed force reduction and the new confidence building and disarmament conference be held also in Austria—Vienna or its vicinity.

Further on, he explained that regarding the parts of the final document dealing with the principles of the relations between the states, important problems still have to be solved, such as the mechanism of cooperation related to human rights, the role of individuals and organizations in the promotion of the Helsinki process, the situation of the national minorities. According to Hungary even in such sensitive issues satisfactory solutions could be found.

Andre Erdos speaking on the issues of the 'second basket' of the Helsinki final documents pointed out that the Vienna follow-up meeting failed to yield satisfactory progress on this topic, despite the need of the participating countries which demand new steps in economic and related fields to overtake the results of the Helsinki process achieved so far. He singled out the importance of the development of cooperation in the fields of trade, industry, environmental protection, communications and tourism and further on emphasized: The Vienna talks regarding technical-scientific cooperation can't have self-satisfaction with generalities expressed in statements, either.

The head of the Hungarian delegation observed: The fifth round resulted in a certain progress in the field of humanitarian cooperation by adopting a package proposal which extends to all major groups of issues of the third basket. Later on, however, great care should be taken to maintain the continuous editing process of the texts which are not mentioned in the package proposal of the final document.

Hungary—as the ambassador said—attributes great importance to that, that in the state legislations the obligations taken in the framework of the Helsinki process be reflected. And where the national laws contain certain restrictions of the rights these should be of extraordinary nature without leading to abuse.

Further Reportage on Maltese Official's Visit

Zhivkov Gives Luncheon

AU251953 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Todor Zhivkov, chairman of the State Council, gave an official luncheon in honor of Dr Vincent Tabone, minister of foreign affairs of Malta. The luncheon was attended by Comrades Milko Balev, Petur Mladenov, Petur Tanchev, and by other officials.

The Maltese foreign minister was also received by Comrade Georgi Atanasov, chairman of the Council of Ministers.

They discussed the state of bilateral cooperation, as well as some issues of the internal situation.

Comrade Georgi Atanasov pointed out the successes achieved in recent years by the two countries in their trade and economic exchange.

Readiness was expressed to intensify mutual economic cooperation in various sectors and to establish joint enterprises. Opportunities for the implementation of joint Bulgarian-Maltese ventures in third countries were also discussed.

Comrade Georgi Atanasov stressed the great importance which Bulgaria attaches to the expansion of cultural relations between the two countries. The importance of the plan signed yesterday on exchange in culture, science, education, and sports was pointed out in this connection.

The attempts by both countries to persist in their efforts devoted to the preservation of peace and to the solution of problems in zones of tension through negotiations was stressed during the talks.

Tabone Briefs Press

AU261623 Sofia BTA in English 1440 GMT 26 Mar 88

["Maltese Foreign Minister Ends Visit"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, March 26 (BTA)—Today Dr Vincent Tabone, minister of foreign affairs of Malta, left Bulgaria convinced that the results of his talks here will contribute to the strengthening and expansion of Bulgaro-Maltese relations.

"I am profoundly pleased with the talks," he told the press before his departure. "We have good relations, but we intend to improve them still further. Bilateral cooperation faces promising prospects. We arrived at the conclusion that we can expand our trade and contacts in a number of areas, that we can set up more joint ventures." Dr Vincent Tabone stressed that one purpose of his visit had been to express his one-year-old government's firm commitment to the extension of the previously established bilateral contacts.

The chief Maltese diplomat further expressed satisfaction with the similar views held by Malta and Bulgaria on a number of the international issues discussed. "It became clear that, despite our belonging to different political systems and to different ideologies, my Bulgarian colleague Petur Mladenov and the rest of the Bulgarian senior officials (Dr Tabone conferred with State Council President Todor Zhivkov and with Prime Minister Georgi Atanasov) and I speak one and the same language. We are unanimous that war should be ruled out as a means of settling international disputes and should give way to dialogue," he said.

Dr Vincent Tabone said he had briefed Mr Petur Mladenov on the reply of the non-alignment movement countries in the Mediterranean to the Soviet initiatives advanced by Mr Mikhail Gorbachev in Belgrade. "We received assurances from the USSR that it wanted the strengthening of Mediterranean peace and security. We welcome this reply and the proposals are being looked into confidently and carefully so as to explore every opportunity.

"I myself am very pleased to note the positive indications displayed by the superpowers following the INF Treaty. There are promising signs that the forthcoming summit in Moscow will produce still better results. This raises our hopes about the future of the world," the Maltese foreign minister said.

Departs 26 Mar

AU261436 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 0900 GMT 26 Mar 88

[Text] This morning Dr Vincent Tabone, minister of foreign affairs of Malta, departed from Bulgaria. He had made an official visit to Bulgaria at the invitation of Foreign Minister Petur Mladenov.

At Sofia Airport the visitor was seen off by Comrade Petur Mladenov, deputy ministers of foreign affairs, and other officials.

Lukanov Activities in Paris Reported

AU202163 Sofia BTA in English 2029 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Paris, March 25 (BTA Corr)—The 15th Session of the Bulgaro-French Committee for Economic, Industrial and Technological Cooperation ended here today.

In order to step up the development of countertrade on a balanced basis, the two sides expressed the wish for the establishment of the most favorable conditions for access to the respective markets.

The Bulgarian delegation, led by the Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Mr Andrey Lukanov, had meetings with leading representatives of the French business and financial circles, with the board of managers of the French Council of the Industrialists with presidents of leading firms and associations in the field of foreign trade, mechanical engineering, electronics and communications equipment.

Mr Andrey Lukanov informed the French partners of the new mechanism of the organization and the management of the Bulgarian economy and of the possibilities these reveal for an accelerated and balanced development of the bilateral economic relations.

Mr Andrey Lukanov was received by Mr Jean-Bernard Raimond, minister of external relations, and with Mr Gerard Longuet, minister of postal services and telecommunications.

Stanishev Receives PASOK Youth Leader

AU241815 Sofia BTA in English
1643 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Sofia, March 24 (BTA)—Mr Dimitur Stanishev, secretary of the CC of the BCP, received the Greek youth delegation currently visiting this country headed by Mr Fotis Khatzimikhalis, first secretary of the Youth of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement. The importance of the further development of the relations of friendship and cooperation between Bulgaria and Greece, between the peoples and the youth of the two countries was stressed during the talk.

Agreement Signed

AU241438 Sofia BTA in English
1248 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Sofia, March 24 (BTA)—An agreement for cooperation was signed here today between the Dimitrov Young Communist League and the youth of the Pan Hellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) which confirms the resolution of the two organizations to work actively for promoting mutually advantageous contacts and for enhancing the goodneighbourliness, understanding and friendship between Bulgaria and Greece. This is how the document was assessed by Mr Andrey Bundzhulov, first secretary of the CC of the Dimitrov Young Communist League, and Mr Fotis Khatzimikhalis, first secretary of the Youth of PASOK.

The Dimitrov Young Communist League and the Youth of PASOK will continue to work for strengthening the antiimperialist cohesion and unity of action of the wide strata of young people.

We are convinced that the elimination of nuclear weapons would contribute to easing international tension and to enhancing security, the two organizations welcome the Soviet-American INF Treaty and fully support the initiative for establishing a nuclear and chemical weapons free zone in the Balkans, the document points out.

The agreement and the plan for cooperation in 1988 specify the trends for joint work as well as the joint initiatives of the Dimitrov Young Communist League and the Youth of PASOK.

Tanchev, Agrarian Delegation Returns

AU251410 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian
24 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] Petur Tanchev, secretary of the Bulgarian National Agrarian Union, [BZNS] who had led the BZNS delegation that took part in the work of the 10th ZSL Congress in Poland, returned from Warsaw yesterday.

At Sofia Airport the delegation was met by secretaries and members of the BZNS Permanent Board, as well as by Weclav Bek, Polish ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Bulgaria.

Chamber of Commerce Group Holds Brussels Talks

AU241948 Sofia BTA in English
1851 GMT 24 Mar 88

["Bulgaria-Belgium: Wider Business Contacts"—BTA headline]

[Text] Brussels, March 24 (BTA correspondent)—A delegation of the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry had talks at Belgian companies and enterprises. The opportunities were explored for bilateral cooperation in the chemical industry, electronics, mechanical engineering, the food industry and banking.

A cooperation agreement was signed between the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Belgian Association for Development and Cooperation. Under the agreement, Bulgaria and Belgium will exchange information on their economy and foreign trade and will study the possibilities for the training and specialization in Belgium of Bulgarian economists, jurists and engineers in management, marketing and banking.

Strezov Presents Credentials to De Cuellar

AU241947 Sofia BTA in English
1849 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] New York City, March 24 (BTA correspondent)—The newly appointed permanent representative of the People's Republic of Bulgaria to the United Nations Aleksandur Strezov, first deputy minister of foreign affairs, presented his letters of credence to Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the UN.

The Bulgarian ambassador stressed the great importance which Bulgaria attaches to the UN as a reliable instrument of peace and security. He assured the organization's secretary general that Bulgaria will persevere in making every effort toward raising the efficiency of the United Nations.

Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar commended highly Bulgaria's contribution to the work of the UN and emphasized that this contribution is of great importance for the enhancement of the role of the world organization in strengthening peace and in promoting cooperation among the peoples.

Paper Notes Pakistani National Day

AU241710 Sofia OTECHESTVEN FRONT in Bulgarian
23 Mar 88 p 4

[Unattributed article: "National Day of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan"]

[Text] Pakistan was proclaimed an Islamic Republic on 23 March 1956. Since that time 23 March has been celebrated as the country's National Day. This is not only a formal date—as a result of the proclamation of the Republic of Pakistan the country was no longer a British dominion and the newly adopted Constitution (the first in the history of Pakistan) fully confirmed the country's independence.

In the years of independent development Pakistan passed through a difficult path full of dramatic events both in and outside the country. They obstructed, to a great extent, the planned pace of the country's socioeconomic progress. Islamabad's foreign policy line also revealed some negative and contradictory trends. One of the turning points in the country's most recent history was the fact that Pakistan left the CENTO bloc in 1979 and was accepted as a member of the the Nonaligned Countries Movement in the same year. At the same time, however, Islamabad engaged in close political cooperation with the United States. Pakistan's involvement in the undeclared war against Afghanistan caused numerous difficulties for the country, despite the generous military and economic assistance granted by the United States since 1981. Recently, when real opportunities for settling the problems around Afghanistan appeared on the horizon, Pakistan's responsibility in connection with achieving this goal manifested itself with particular emphasis. This is why attention today is focused on Geneva, where Afghan-Pakistani negotiations are in progress, in the hope that Islamabad will adopt a realistic and constructive stand. This would be in the interest of the Pakistani people, as well as in the interest of peace and security in the area and throughout the world.

Guided by the principles of peaceful coexistence and the sincere desire of maintaining good relations with all countries, the People's Republic of Bulgaria is striving for the development of mutually advantageous cooperation with Pakistan. The basis for this policy was laid down in 1961, when diplomatic relations were established between our two countries. Despite certain objective difficulties, our bilateral relations—particularly in the trade sector—are successfully developing. However, numerous favorable and unused opportunities still exist, and are likely to become the object of future studies and specific steps. On the occasion of Pakistan's National Day, the Bulgarian public conveys most sincere congratulations to the people of Pakistan for progress, peace, and prosperity.

Yotov, Yordanov at Young Writers Conference

AU251654 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian
24 Mar 88 p 2

[Excerpts] Sofia, 23 March (Boyka Asiova and Vasil Lyutskanov)—Today the Fifth National Conference of Young Creative Workers in Literature opened in the Lyudmila Zhivkova People's Palace of Culture in Sofia. The work of the conference will proceed under the watchword "Youth, Literature, Restructuring." Some 250 young poets, fiction writers, playwrights, and critics will hold an open creative dialogue about the last 5-year period and the ideological and artistic merits of their works. [passage omitted]

Opening the conference, Lyubomir Levchev, chairman of the Bulgarian Writers Union, called on the young creative workers to be worthy of the age of revolutionary restructuring.

Comrades Yordan Yotov and Georgi Yordanov were among those attending the conference. [passage omitted]

Briefs

"Khimimport" Association

On 23 March a trade association [sdruzhenie] called "Khimimport" was formed, attached to the "Biotechnological and Chemical Industry" Association. As part of the new association, foreign trade firms and units for conducting a uniform market policy are to be set up. The association will carry out efficient exchange operations, render assistance to the goods producers in establishing ties with foreign trade partners, and prepare analyses and forecasts of developments and trends in the international market. [Text] [*AU251412 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 24 Mar 88 p 2*]

Italian Business Contacts

Sofia, March 24 (BTA)—"High Technologies in the Manufacturing of Two- and Three-Wheel Transport Vehicles" is the subject of a symposium sponsored by the Italian-Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce, the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Italian

Piaggio Group, which was opened here today. An exhibition, which is an accompanying event to the exhibition, has on display various models of Gilera motorcycles and mopeds, Bianchi bicycles, Vespa and Cosa scooters, and Vespacar three-wheelers. In their reports, Piaggio experts discussed in detail the prospects for the development of high technologies in the production of this type of vehicles. The idea of the initiative is to identify opportunities for industrial, technological, and marketing cooperation. [Text] [*AU241759 Sofia BTA in English 1448 GMT 24 Mar 88*]

Exercises With USSR in Bohemia Continue

LD261903 Prague CTK in English
1752 GMT 26 Mar 88

[Text] Prague March 26 (CTK)—The joint military exercises of the Czechoslovak and Soviet armies continued in north Bohemia today, again in the presence of 43 observers from 22 states.

The foreign observers watched the operations with interest, but visibility was poor in the afternoon due to snowfall and wind.

Speaking to CTK, Major General Fredric Franks from the United States said he was pleasantly surprised by the conditions created for his work by the Czechoslovak and Soviet sides.

Czechoslovak Colonel Milos Cech, who attended the Goldener Loewe Exercises in West Germany last autumn, told CTK that observers had similar conditions in the FRG and Czechoslovakia.

Major General Viktor Malashkevich, second in command of the central Group of Soviet Troops in Czechoslovakia, gave a dinner for the foreign observers tonight.

The exercises continue tomorrow.

Further Report

LD251341 Prague Domestic Service in Czech
1000 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] The joint exercises by ground troops from the Czechoslovak People's Army and the Soviet Army are continuing in northwest Bohemia today. Two incomplete divisions of the Central Group of Soviet troops—a tank and a motorized rifle one—and a Czechoslovak motorized rifle battalion have taken up their starting positions in the exercise area. The number of troops taking part in the exercises exceeded 17,000 this morning.

In accordance with provisions of the final document of the Stockholm conference, the military exercises are being watched by 43 observers from 22 countries participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, who moved from Prague to Most yesterday.

Observers Begin Work

LD251917 Prague Domestic Service in Czech
1730 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Here is a report from the area of the joint exercises by the Czechoslovak People's Army and the Soviet Army phoned through by Lieutenant Colonel Petr Tax:

[Tax] More than 17,000 troops gathered in the military exercise area this morning. This, incidentally, is the figure at which the signatories of the final document from the Stockholm Conference on Confidence-Building Measures, Security, and Disarmament in Europe are obliged to invite observers. Consequently, 43 observers from 22 countries of the world began their activity today, including representatives of the Canadian and U.S. armies.

At 0930 this morning the observers were briefed by the commander of the exercises, Major General Viktor Malashkevich of the Soviet Army. Then they were taken to the exercise area and began their observations, watching defensive actions by Czechoslovak and Soviet military units. They were given the opportunity to inspect the combat equipment in detail. They watched the activity and movement of a tank regiment, and visited an artillery unit. In the afternoon they focussed full attention on the activity of Czechoslovak and Soviet units in defensive action. They were given an opportunity to chat informally with members of the exercising troops, and from what they had to say we can conclude that they had a very high opinion of the facilities provided for their work, and that they appreciated the opportunities granted to them as well as the technical facilities—cameras, dictation machines, and movie cameras—which they were able to use for the first time in Czechoslovakia. They highly commended the attitude of the representatives of the Soviet and Czechoslovak armies, and they—that is to say the observers—stated that they intended to report back to their countries that these exercises did not represent any threat. The exercises and the activity of the observers will resume tomorrow.

Activities of Observers

LD251740 Prague CTK in English
1614 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Most (north Bohemia) March 25 (CTK)—Joint military exercises of the Czechoslovak and the Soviet armies continue for the fourth day in north west Bohemia today.

As the number of troops exceeded 17,000 this morning, the exercises are followed by observers (43 from 22 CSCE signatory states) in harmony with the final document of the Stockholm Conference on Security- and Confidence-Building Measures and Disarmament. The observers are to verify that the manoeuvres are not of a deterring character.

The observers left Most for the military sector where deputy commander of the Central Group of Soviet troops stationed in Czechoslovakia Major-General Gennadiy Shtyrov informed them of the initial position of the excercising troops.

Later on, the observers arrived among the troops taking part in the manoeuvres and talked to Soviet soldiers. Inspecting an area where a tank regiment was operating, they examined modern Soviet-T72 tanks. The American observers were interested in the duties of each member of the tank crew, their age and the length of service.

Division General Karl Schoeller from Austria said in an interview with the Czechoslovak television he was very satisfied so far with the conditions and course of the observer mission.

The observers following the current joint military exercises of the Soviet and the Czechoslovak armies inspected today also the positions of an artillery detachment of the Soviet Army and the defence field of a motorized infantry battalion of the Czechoslovak Army.

The battalion's commander First Lieutenant Milan Bosak told CTK that bad weather conditions have since the beginning of the exercises laid great demands on the troops building trenches in a difficult and muddy terrain.

Major-General Gennadiy Shtyrov told CTK that both the Soviet and Czechoslovak sides fulfil all tasks arising from the Stockholm document also in the training area. Apart from equipping the observers with maps and other material, we arranged for them telephone communications to their diplomatic missions in Prague and they can call even their countries right from the military area where the exercises are taking place.

General Gudmund O. Beitland from Norway positively assessed the conditions created for the observers. Asked how he evaluates the significance of the Stockholm document the Norwegian general said that from the very beginning his country agreed with its provisions. He appreciated the observers can follow Soviet and Czechoslovak troops in action. He said that according to what he had seen so far, the exercises are not threatening anyone.

The exercises continue tomorrow with all 43 observers taking part.

Maj Gen Shtyrov Evaluates Exercises

LD272004 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1630 GMT 27 Mar 88

[Text] Unfavorable weather was certainly a test and an obstacle at the two sided tactical exercises of units of our army and units of the Central Group of Soviet Forces in Czechoslovakia. It ended this afternoon and so Pavel Vachtr was able to ask one of the participants for a first short evaluation:

[Vachtr] these exercises were watched by 43 observers from 22 countries, signatories to the Stockholm CSCE. How can we evaluate the course of these exercises is the question asked of the deputy commander of the Central Group of Soviet Forces, Lieutenant General [rank as heard] Gennadiy Shtyrov, who was here in the position of deputy director of the exercises.

[Begin Shtyrov recording in Russian with superimposed Czech translation] Over the course of 3 days, the soldiers of two fraternal armies, the Soviet Army and the Czechoslovak People's Army, showed how the military doctrine of countries participating in the Warsaw Pact is put into practice. The exercises had a markedly defensive character. The special thing about it was that the foreign observers who took part had the opportunity to speak to soldiers, noncommissioned officers and officers of the exercising armies. They were interested in particular in the actual course of the units' battle activity and their life under field conditions. Regardless of the complicated meteorological conditions under which the exercises were taking place, the complicated battle situation, the members of the fraternal armies fulfilled all exercise tasks and thus showed the good results of field training and their military art. I am making use of this oportunity to express the thanks of the exercises' command to the soldiers of our fraternal armies for all that they showed during the exercises. I would also like to thank the Czechoslovak SR Government and the Czechoslovak Ministry of National Defense for the creation of all conditions for undertaking these exercises.

Observer Praises Facilities

LD272148 Prague International Service in English 1900 GMT 27 Mar 88

[Text] The joint Czechoslovak-Soviet military exercises held since Tuesday in northwestern Czechoslovakia ended today, and units which took part in them are returning to their garrisons. Since the exercise involved just over 17,000 troops, it was followed at Czechoslovakia's invitation by 43 military observers from the 22 signatory states of the final document adopted at the Stockholm Conference on Confidence and Security Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe. The mission of the observers is to determine whether the exercise is not of a nature that would be a threat to European security and other countries. The observers were provided with all the necessary facilities for conducting their mission. They had a free access to the troops and their equipment and could photograph anything they wanted to. They were also briefed every day on the course and objectives of the exercise, and on the observation post could contact by telephone the diplomatic missions of their countries in Prague or their countries. Commenting on the conditions offered to foreign observers, one of them, Colonel Bevers from the Netherlands told a Radio Prague reporter:

[Begin Bevers recording] We have been received very kindly, welcomed very much, and what I think, the hospitality was very warm so that we felt very comfortable there. We were provided with adequate material, we were informed very thoroughly by the leader of the exercise, by (?those) with us in the field. Every day we had received information and could put any question we liked. We saw a lot of material, we could speak with the personnel. In all, it was a very opened exercise for us. I think they all did their best. We saw the lots of digging

they had done, the building of, the constructing of settlements they had made, very good camouflage work. When we put some questions about weapon technique, etc. they all answered what they could and provided us with information, I think, we would require. [end recording]

Exercises End; Observers Satisfied

LD271614 Prague CTK in English
1536 GMT 27 Mar 88

[Text] Prague March 27 (CTK)—The joint exercises of the Czechoslovak and Soviet armies in North-West Bohemia ended today, the final operations were again watched by 43 observers from 22 countries.

The foreign generals and officers watched tank operations and used their own cameras to take pictures which the Czechoslovak and Soviet sides made possible above the framework of obligations ensuing from the Stockholm document under which the observers came to Czechoslovakia.

Several observers granted interviews to CTK. Colonel M.J.H Bevers from the Netherlands appreciated that he and his colleagues were given all documents on the exercises and received specifying information every day.

Lieutenant Colonel Klaus Arnold from West Germany said that the observers always knew precisely what part of the exercises they were watching.

Deputy Chief of Staff of the Czechoslovak People's Army Lieutenant General Jiri Brychta told CTK that "the mission of the observers was to verify that the exercises did not have the character of a threat. We created all conditions for this in harmony with the Stockholm document. They were not in the least limited when they came to units. They were free to go everywhere, talk to the soldiers and commanders and take photographs of anything they chose. Their conduct was very correct."

General Jiri Brychta gave a luncheon for the guest in the north Bohemian town of Most. Later they left for Prague to continue home.

Church Demonstration Attempted in Bratislava

LD251924 Prague Television Service in Czech
1830 GMT 25 Mar 88

[No video available]

[Text] In Bratislava today there was an attempt by individuals belonging to illegal church structures to organize a demonstration with the aim of misusing the religious feelings of Catholic believers, disrupting relations between the church and the socialist state, and the talks with the Vatican.

Behind this event, which was encouraged by Western media, particularly the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe radio stations, were people connected with reactionary emigre organizations. Official representatives of the Catholic Church in Slovakia have condemned this action, which violates our laws.

The event ended in failure because the overwhelming majority of believers respected the view of church dignitaries in as much as the provocation ran counter to their interests and civic attitudes.

Police Break Up Bratislava Church Demonstration

AU281034 Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG
in German 27 Mar 88 p 1

[Text] Bratislava—On Friday evening [25March] in the Slovak capital of Bratislava, about 2,000 people tried in vain to demonstrate for freedom of religion. Eyewitnesses reported that large numbers of policemen and water-spraying road sweepers prevented the rally from being held. Television teams of the Austrian Radio and Television Service, ORF, and the German television first channel, ARD, who wanted to film the events, were taken to police barracks and their cameras and films were impounded.

After his return to Austria, ORF journalist Otto Hoermann, who is accredited in the CSSR, reported brutal actions by policemen who were obviously under the influence of alcohol. Two other ORF journalists—Barbara Coudenhove-Kalergi and Karl Stipsicz—who were in Bratislava only as observers, were also temporarily arrested. They were released on Saturday, around 0300 in the morning, after having been detained for more than 8 hours.

According to information from Bratislava, several hundred of the demonstrators—the demonstration had been registered in advance but was not authorized by the authorities—were arrested.

The official news agency CTK only reported that "a few demonstrators from illegal church structures" had intended to "abuse the people's religious feelings and to disturb the relations between the church and the socialist state and the talks with the Vatican."

In the view of Prague's Cardinal Frantisek Tomasek, the police action against the demonstrators in Bratislava will only strengthen the church in this communist country.

Frantisek Miklosko, the organizer of the demonstration, who was arrested already 1 day before the event, is still in prison. His fellow-fighter, lawyer Jan Cernogursky, said in an ORF interview on Saturday that the Bratislava demonstration had been a new form of civil protest that had been used for the first time in 40 years. A demonstration registered in advance is an unprecedented event, Cernogursky stated.

Catholic dissident Vaclav Benda accused the communist authorities of having proved by their action in Bratislava that they do not intend to follow the Soviet course of reforms in the CSSR.

Ermacora Appeal [subhead]

On Saturday OeVP Deputy and international human rights expert Felix Ermacora said in the OeVP Press Service that the Austrian people are shocked by the fact that in their immediate neighborhood human rights and, in particular, freedom of religion and opinion, are grossly neglected.

The reported actions of the Slovak police are in contradiction to all international obligations recognized by the CSSR in the field of human rights. The security organs also violated the personal freedom and safety of those participating in the religious rally.

Ermacora pointed out that the CSSR, too, is a signatory of the Helsinki Declaration.

He called on the delegates to the CSCE conference in Vienna not to adjourn the session until after Easter but to meet immediately in order to discuss these events and to jointly condemn the actions of the Slovak security organs.

'Hundreds' Arrested

LD252148 Hamburg DPA in German
2119 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Bratislava (DPA)—In the Slovak capital, Bratislava, this evening about 2,000 people tried in vain to demonstrate in favor of religious freedom. Eyewitnesses reported that massive police deployment and water-spraying road-sweeping machines prevented the rally. A television team from ARD [first German TV channel] which wanted to film the event was taken to a police barracks. Camera and film material was impounded, it was said. According to the eyewitnesses the team were "brutally" dealt with.

According to news from Bratislava, 100 or even several hundreds of participants in the applied-for but unauthorized demonstration have been taken into custody. [passage omitted]

Demonstration Organizer Released

AU281106 Paris AFP in English
1100 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, March 28 (AFP)—Catholic militant Frantisek Miklosko, arrested last Friday before a religious demonstration in this southern city, was released Sunday, dissident sources said Monday.

The 40-year-old mathematician was the last of the 100 to 200 people arrested before or during the demonstration to be released, the sources added.

The official press reported Monday that between 500 and 600 demontrators had taken part in Friday's "provocative" demonstration.

It said about 2,000 people had been involved if police and bystanders were taken into account.

Independent observers estimated the number of demonstrators at 2,000.

The Slovakian Communist Party daily PRAVDA said the protest was "organized by individuals belonging to secret church structures and had been announced to Western media well before authorization to hold it was requested."

The demonstration was forbidden under Czechoslovak law, the paper added.

PRAVDA charged the organizers with "abuse of the religious feelings of Catholics for political ends," and of "seeking to harm relations between the church and the Socialist state and hamper negotiations between Czechoslovakia and the Vatican."

The negotiations, focused on the naming of new bishops in Czechoslovakia, where 10 of the country's 13 dioceses do not have a bishop, are expected to resume shortly in Rome.

PRAVDA added that Catholic "provocateurs" in Slovakia were using religion as "an excuse to fight against the Socialist state."

Meanwhile, Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock on Monday expressed "deep dismay" at the violence used by Czech police to break up Friday's demonstration.

The Austrian journalists' union also protested against the "revolting way" in which an Austrian television crew and two Austrian journalists had been treated by police in Bratislava.

In a letter to the Czechoslovak Embassy in Vienna, the union complained over their detention, which lasted several hours.

In London, Foreign Office minister David Mellor on Saturday protested to a senior Czech official about the violence with which police dispersed the demonstration Friday.

Mr. Mellor told Czechoslovak Consul Radislav Jordak that he was "appalled by these events," in which several Western journalists, including a BBC correspondent, were beaten by police, an official spokesman added.

Canon Condemns Demonstration

AU251239 Bratislava ROLNICKE NOVINY in Slovak 24 Mar 88 pp 1,2

["Full text" of statement by Canon Stefan Zareczky, doctor of theology and dean of Bratislava, on Slovak television on 23 March: "What Do They Actually Want To Achieve?"]

[Text] Yesterday evening [23 March] the Slovak Television Service relayed a statement by Canon Stefan Zareczky, doctor of theology and dean of Bratislava. We publish herewith the full text of this statement.

When I learned from brief reports that foreign broadcasting services want to support the apostolic activity of our believers, my mind was set at rest—at last they are no longer publicizing distorted information and ridicule, they are taking the right track, pointed out by Pope John 23d of blessed memory, by the Vatican Council, but also by the new Church Code (Codex Iuris Canonici). I was glad to learn that they want to rally believers on paths to the sources of grace, as the six main truths enlighten us that God's grace is needed for salvation.

I was all the more surprised and filled with apprehension when I read the appeal of some anonymous organizers, which said that a public demonstration was being prepared on behalf of the Catholics for Friday, 25 March. In response to our request for information, our most reverend Messrs bishops and administrators of Slovak dioceses quite justly expressed their disagreement (with reference to Canon 216 of the Church Code) with any person, clergyman or layman, undertaking this kind of thing on behalf of Catholic believers without consulting the appropriate church representatives in advance. The Friday in question is a traditional holiday of the Holy Virgin—the last Friday before Good Friday, when believers attend devotions of the stations of the cross in all our Catholic churches. That is why it is impossible to grasp that our believers are being lured to a public demonstration, as though one underrated the divine services, prayers, and the spirit of Lent. Does one perhaps want to prove that the path of redemption followed by Christ on his way to Calvary means less to us than a demonstration, the organizers and purpose of which provide us with no guarantees?! The churches are waiting with open arms for believers to freely show their feeling of solidarity with the suffering Christ, and their loyalty to Him; how could the Catholics foresake Christ at this time in particular, on His way to sacrificial death which was decisive for our redemption?! Who wants to distract the attention of Catholic believers from Christ (and disturb orderly divine services by a street demonstration), on whose behalf, and where?!

I fear that such actions as this have purely political goals, and very little in common with religion. It is startling that the anonymous organizers, who abuse the sincere religious feelings and convictions of honest believers, hide behind religion.

We all want those problems of our believers, which are still open, to be solved as soon as possible to everybody's satisfaction. But this purpose is served by negotiations with the Vatican, like those which took place toward the end of last year in Rome, were recently continued in our country, and will soon be resumed in Rome. Certain self-appointed organizers want to bring on a psychosis of distrust and, by exerting pressure, to provoke an undesirable confrontation. Is it not suspicious that, by circumventing the legal church hierarchy and using dubious political speculations, they are breeding confusion among honest believers in the ranks of our citizens and, instead of preaching Christ's gospel, want to achieve personal popularity by whipping up passions?! This erroneous and cheap popularity was also rejected by Jan Sokol, ordinary of our Trnava Archbishopric, during the Monday [21 March] recollect of the clergy of the deanery of Slovakia's capital Bratislava. He called it a deviation from the path of the gospel. This path is not the path of that Christ, of whom the apostle St. Paul wrote in his second epistle to the Thessalonians that God wants our consecration (4,3).

We can achieve this consecration by honorably fulfilling our sacramental duties—not by taking part in demonstrations with a provocative-political orientation.

It is our common wish that the solution of other open issues of religious life would extend the possibilities for us to achieve the consecration of our everyday life and create the moral values so greatly needed both by believers and by our society.

The appropriate roads to this end are opened by conscientious everyday work for the good of us all and for the preservation of life in peace—not by questionable demonstrations.

Commentary on Demonstration

LD280854 Prague CTK in English 0810 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] Bratislava March 28 (CTK)—Friday's demonstration of secret churches here could not have been permitted because it was at variance with Czechoslovakia's laws, today's Slovak daily PRAVDA stressed.

The action was organized by individuals from illegal church structures in cooperation with foreign subversive centres and had been propagated by the Western mass media long before its organizers asked the Czechoslovak authorities to permit it. They strive to abuse the religious feelings of the Catholic believers for political aims, harm the relation between the church and the socialist state and impede negotiations between Czechoslovakia and the Vatican, the Slovak daily underlined.

The College of Ordinaries of the Roman-Catholic and Greek-Catholic Church in Slovakia have taken a univocally negative stand on this provocation, PRAVDA underlined, pointing out that there were people among

the organizers known for their connections with the clerical fascist regime of the World War Two Slovak state or for attempting to rehabilitate it. Did the organizers of the Friday events want to recall the anniversary of the foundation of the fascist state?, the paper asked. They strive to realize their intentions under the pretext of religious activities which have nothing in common with the faith and are politically oriented against the socialist state. These people even attack believers and priests who are not willing to embark upon the road of intolerance and hate, PRAVDA concluded.

Tatra Committee Denies Guatemala Spy Charges
AU251653 Prague MLADA FRONTA in Czech 23 Mar 88 p 5

[Unattributed report]

[Text] Prague—Yesterday, in Prague, the steering committee of the "Tatra Round the World" expedition issued a statement on the detention of the expedition's crew in Guatemala. It states that the objective of the expedition was to visit countries that even in the past appreciated the quality of Czechoslovak work and Czechoslovak products. The entire program of the expedition had been agreed upon in advance with the appropriate authorities of all countries which the Tatra expedition was to cross, including the Guatemalan Government. According to an official Guatemalan statement, the core of the dispute is the technical equipment of our crew, especially the film equipment. However, such equipment is commonly used by most professional film crews to make television series or documents, the statement stresses.

"The accusations against the crew of the Tatra truck, especially the accusation concerning the abuse of technical equipment for the purpose of spying, are false, fabricated, and profoundly in contradiction with the peacefub mission of the "Tatra Round the World" expedition. We categorically reject the slanderous campaign launched by the Guatemalan information media and demand the immediate release of the Czechoslovak citizens," the statement issued by the steering committee of the "Tatra Round the World" expedition states.

Berlin Land Exchange Agreement Initialed

LD281429 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1401 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] Berlin (West), 28 Mar (ADN)—During talks between Dr Walter Mueller, representative of the GDR Government, and Gerhard Kunze, the representative of the senate, an agreement on exchange of territory was initialed today at Schoeneberg Town Hall in Berlin (West). The signing is planned for 31 March 1988.

Historian Says Remarks on CSSR Distorted

LD251817 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1742 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Potsdam, 25 Mar (ADN)—In connection with the annual meeting of the military and social sciences working group in Gummersbach, FRG, which was attended by Major General Professor Reinhard Bruehl, director of the Military History Institute of the GDR, FRG newspapers and radio stations have imputed to him statements on relations between the GDR and the CSSR that do not correspond to the truth. Maj Gen Bruehl has said that the distortion of his remarks on the internationalist help of the Warsaw Pact member states for socialist Czechoslovakia in 1968 are a renewed and inappropriate attempt to give substance to anticommunist stereotyped ideas.

Forged GDR Passports Circulating in W. Berlin

LD271538 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1316 GMT 27 Mar 88

[Text] Berlin (West), 27 Mar (ADN)—According to AP, a new form of fraud is practiced in West Berlin, involving forged and counterfeit GDR passports. According to a report in TAGESZEITUNG, quoted by the agency, West Berliners obtain with the help of the blue passport with the hammer and dividers emblem services and the welcoming money of 100 marks paid once per annum to visitors from the GDR. Counterfeiters are selling the document in Kreuzberg for between 200 and 400 marks. A number of GDR pensioners visiting the West are reportedly prepared to "lose" their passport for 300 marks. The numbered card from the GDR frontier officials needed in addition to the passport to receive the welcoming money can be bought in the West for 50 marks.

TAGESZEITUNG reported that after extending tourism to GDR citizens below the pension age even young Western citizens are able to use the underground or bus free of charge with an illegally used GDR passport. Swimming pools, museums, and exhibitions can be visited "free" in this way. The same applies to the great fairs in West Berlin such as the agricultural "Green Week" show. Many other things are available in West Berlin at reduced cost. The article continues that since nobody knows exactly what a blue GDR passport really looks like a clever forgery is generally successful.

Similar to this is another forgery which became known recently. Thus a primitive, forged edition of NEUES DEUTSCHLAND produced in the West is being distributed between the FRG, West Berlin, and the GDR. It has received special attention that this forgery is being displayed also in the Kreuzberg and Schoeneberg town halls in West Berlin. All such practices are, as ADN has learned, calculated only to place a strain on travel.

FRG Interior Ministry Official Visits GDR

AU241239 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 23 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] East Berlin (ADN)—Carl-Dieter Spranger, parliamentary state secretary in the FRG Ministry of the Interior, is currently in the GDR on an informative visit. On Tuesday [22 March] he was received in Berlin for talks by Guenter Erbach, state secretary for physical culture and sports, and Dietmar Keiler, GDR deputy minister of culture. He also met with Guenter Schade, general manager of the Berlin state museums. On Wednesday Carl-Dieter Spranger will be received by Rolf Opitz, chairman of the Leipzig Bezirk Council, and will pay a visit to the German Advanced School of Physical Culture.

FRG Trade Union Delegation Pays Visit

AU241436 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 22 Mar 88 p 1

[Text] East Berlin (ADN)—A delegation of the DGB National Executive Committee headed by DGB Deputy Chairman Gustav Fehrenbach arrived in Berlin on Monday [21 March] at the invitation of the FDGB National Executive Committee. During the several-day visit, the delegation will familiarize itself with vocational training in the GDR. At enterprises and institutions in Berlin and in Cottbus and Dresden Bezirke, and in talks with workers and apprentices and at trade unions, the FRG guests will be briefed on how the GDR trade unions are meeting their responsibility in the training and further education of the working people.

Received by Tisch

LD252130 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1530 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Berlin, 25 Mar ADN—Harry Tisch, chairman of the FDGB National Executive Council, on Friday in Berlin received for a conversation a delegation of the Federal Executive of the German Trade Union Federation (DGB) of the FRG led by DGB Deputy Chairman Gustav Fehrenbach.

In the course of the open and frank exchange of views, the parties emphasized that the change for the better that is currently discernible in international relations is being supported by the trade unions in the two German states with the strength of their millions of members. By means of the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles, a historic start on

disarmament has been made. Gustav Fehrenbach described as unprecedented the handing over a few days ago in Waren of a former missile site to a trade union for use as a recreation and vaction establishment. It would be desirable if, on the Western side as well, such bases were to be made available for purposes of comparable common benefit.

The two sides emphasized in agreement that it is now important to extend nuclear disarmament without delay to other spheres, to liberate mankind from all means of mass destruction. The hope was expressed that, at the newly-arranged summit meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan, an agreement might be reached on the 50-percent reduction of the strategic offensive weapons of the two states while adhering to the ABM Treaty.

Harry Tisch explained the active contribution of the GDR under the aegis of the coordinated foreign policy of the countries of socialism, for securing peace and developing neighborliness. The GDR wishes, on the basis of respect for existing realities, to continue its policy toward the FRG, a policy directed at business-like cooperation. He referred to the proposals to the Government of the FRG to make the two German states nuclear weapons-free, and to the GDR initiative for an international meeting for nuclear weapons-free zones in June 1988 in Berlin. This, and the ahead-of-schedule withdrawal of intermediate-range missiles from the territories of the GDR and the CSSR again prove the contructiveness and credibility of the socialist peace policy.

During the lively exchange of views, the guests received information about the tasks of the unions in training and further education in the GDR. Guarantees of the right to work and the right to education for all was described by Harry Tisch as an essential achievement of socialism and an expression of the realization of human rights in the GDR. Harry Tisch stressed that it is important, particularly in connection with the rapid development of science and technology, to react speedily and flexibily to new education requirements. In this, all necessary decisions, including issues of work and living conditions, must be made with foresight and in trusting cooperation with the workers. Only in this way can the democratic principle of "work together, plan together, govern together" be realized.

Then Gustav Fehrenbach touched on focal points of the trade union representation of interests by the DGB in the FRG. The aim of trade union vocational training policy is seen by the DGB as being the implementation of education for all young and working people in the FRG, which corresponds to the inherent and social requirements of technological and organizational change.

Professional and social equality of opportunity must be established, the social mastery and development of technology must be made possible, and rights to participate in decisionmaking must be assured, he stressed. One important task consists in countering the continuing high level of mass unemployment, not least by a further reduction in weekly working time.

Both sides stated in conclusion that the further deepening of the fruitful exchange of ideas and experience between trade unions in differing social order is of great importance. The continuation of the good bilateral relations between the FDGB and the DGB on the basis of the agreement made on 28 May 1987 offers a good basis for this.

Central Committee Greets Uruguayan CP Leader

AU231157 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 21 Mar 88 p 1

[ND report: "Cordial Congratulations From the SED to Rodney Arismendi"]

[Text] East Berlin (ND)—The SED Central Committee has sent the following greetings message signed by General Secretary Erich Honecker to Rodney Arismendi, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uruguay:

Dear Comrade Rodney Arismendi, on the occasion of your 75th birthday I convey to you most cordial greetings and congratulations on behalf of the SED Central Committee and on my own behalf.

Our party knows and respects you as a steadfast Communist, as an important representative of the people of Uruguay, as an outstanding personality of the internationalist communist movement, and as a comrade who has dedicated his life to the struggle against exploitation and oppression, for peace, democracy, and socialism.

The development of the Communist Party of Uruguay into an influential militant Marxist-Leninist party that has earned great merit in the resistance against military dictatorship and in restoring democratic conditions is closely linked with your name and the decades of your dedicated work. Today we are following with great attention the struggle of the Uruguayan Communists at the side of socialists, Christian Democrats, and other political and social forces within the Broad Front popular movement for a progressive and democratic alternative.

Through your extensive theoretical and journalistic activities you have made an important contribution to further developing and propagandizing our scientific ideology, to establishing a closer link between revolutionary theory and social practice. We would like to convey special thanks from the German socialist state to the proven fellow fighter and friend.

Dear Comrade Rodney Arismendi, on your day of honor we wish you the best of health, creative vigor, and much success in your responsible activity aimed at the well-being of the people of Uruguay and our joint struggle for peace, democracy, and social progress.

With communist greetings,

SED Central Committee

E. Honecker,

general secretary.

[On the same page NEUES DEUTSCHLAND carries a 50-word report on Rodney Arismendi having been awarded the "Great Star of Friendship Among Peoples" Order at the proposal of the SED Central Committee Politburo]

CC Sends Message to Fischer on Birthday

AU222016 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 19-20 Mar 88 p 2

[Message from the SED Central Committee to GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer: "Congratulations of SED Central Committee for Comrade Oskar Fischer; Greetings Message on 65th Birthday"]

[Text] Dear Comrade Oskar Fischer,

The SED Central Committee and the GDR State Council conveys to you cordial greetings and congratulations on your 65th birthday.

Born in a workers' family, you had already joined the communist youth movement at an early age. After the smashing of Hitlerite fascism, you were active for the antifascist, democratic new beginning, the mobilization of the young people in building socialism, and in their education in the spirit of international understanding and peace, in leading functions in the youth association, for example, as FDJ chairman in Brandenburg Land, later as secretary of the FDJ Central Council, and as secretary of the World Federation of Democratic Youth.

On behalf of the party, to which you have belonged for more than 4 decades, you have exercised responsible functions in the party and state machinery and stood the test as a class-conscious comrade who is loyal to our cause. In all your political work, loyalty to Marxism-Leninism and to proletarian internationalism has been the directive and guideline of your actions.

Since 1975, as minister of foreign affairs and member of the GDR Council of Ministers, full of initiatives and ideas, you have advocated the strengthening of the international positions of the first socialist German state.

Since the Eighth SED Congress you have been a Central Committee member. As a deputy of the GDR People's Chamber you enjoy the confidence of the people who elected you.

We appreciate especially your untiring work to universally consolidate the fraternal alliance with the USSR and to further strengthen the international cooperation of the states of the socialist community in implementing the peace strategy of our alliance.

On the basis of our party's flexible and constructive policy of dialogue with firm principles you make an important contribution to the GDR's struggle to prevent the danger of a nuclear world war, for peace and international security.

Your work to implement the internationalist and solidary policy of our state's friendship with the countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America, as well as the policy of peaceful coexistence with states of different social orders, and to mutually guarantee the rights and duties of our Republic in the international forum of the United Nations, is internationally respected.

Today on your birthday we thank you, dear Comrade Oskar Fischer, for your untiring work in the service of the party and the government, for peace and socialism.

We wish you for your responsible activity, health, and creative vigor, luck, and personal well-being also for the future.

With socialist greetings,

E. Honecker. The GDR Council of Ministers and the People's Chamber conveyed congratulations, too.

Order of the Great Star of Friendship Among Peoples Awarded [subhead]

On the proposal of the SED Central Committee Politburo and the Presidium of the GDR Council of Ministers State Council, Chairman Erich Honecker awarded the Order of the Great Star of Friendship Among Peoples to Oskar Fischer.

Central Committee Session Reviewed

Berecz Radio Interview

LD251127 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1730 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Interview with Janos Berecz, member of the MSZMP Politburo and Central Committee secretary by correspondent Gabor Rekay; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Rekay] According to the experiences at the session of the Central Committee, what is it that occupies the party membership?

[Berecz] The views of the party membership can be evaluated or weighed up not only on the basis of what was said at the 2-day Central Committee session, but also on the basis, as is well known, that there was a party debate in January concerning two documents, concerning the reform of the system of political institutions and the leading role of the party, and on the ideological theses. We are also familiar on the whole with the experiences of the conversations which have been conducted with party members.

Today, just as the public opinion of the country, Party members are also occupied first and foremost with the question of how we evaluate our situation, but even though it is impossible to reach complete unity on the evaluation of the situation, their fundamental requirement and demand is that we should reach identical conclusions regarding a program for the way out. This was also reflected in the Central Committee session.

We will submit the draft standpoint, which has been approved, which we are to put forward at the party conference, to a party debate once again in April. In other words, it is impossible to put a full stop at the end of the analysis of the situation or at the end of the program regarding the way out, because we now once again ask for, and expect, the views of the party membership. However, there was agreement in that after the conclusion of the party conference. The task will be not to analyze the situation any longer—even if the views of a proportion of the party membership or of the delegates differ on the fundamental conclusions—but the emphasis will have to be first and foremost on implementation. The stress on party unity will be on united action, not necessarily on the views.

[Rekay] Since you have mentioned implementation, did it not become apparent in the opinion of many, following a debate of these topics,that these formulas must be changed, must be solved, must be discontinued.

[Berecz] We have gotten very used to the so-called must style. The cold runs down my back when I read a draft standpoint of three or four pages and it comprises the word must throughout. What is needed is not a softer style but more subtle shades in the expression of the common opinion, and the tasks should not necessarily be expressed in terms of commands, but in terms to win people over. On this we are in agreement.

[Rekay] Since you have mentioned subtle shades, what is the party's view concerning dissident views and their publicity?

[Berecz] Well, this is another of these expressions, asking what the party's view is. I could say that I do not know what the party's view is. What I can tell you is what the view of the Central Committee is on this, the standpoint which was put forward on this issue, which the members of the Central Committee did not object to, rather confirmed, in the debate.

Dissident views which do not question the foundations of socialism, which do not attack the leading role of the party—this does not mean that they do not argue about it, they do not attack it—and which respect our Constitution and our system of alliance, can be published in whatever other way they differ from our views. The way we formulated this is that the problem is not when views contrary to ours are published, but when they do not receive Marxist criticism. By Marxist criticism I do not mean that such views must be given blanket rejection; truth is not defined by reference to the person who says it but rather whether reality validates it or not. In this case it has to be accepted, has to be added to our thinking or to our program, and, from another aspect, we must reject or disassociate ourselves with Marxist criticism from those views which are not correct or are perhaps harmful.

[Rekay] Finally, since we are now just a few hours after the ending of the Central Committee session, and the listeners are obviously interested in what the atmosphere of the session was like, could you tell me the issues where the discussion might have got more heated, or when perhaps the participants debated with each other using a passionate tone?

[Berecz] Nowadays passions arise here when we discuss party unity, the interpretation of party unity. After all, we must develop—distinct from the old monolithic view—that part unity which does not concern itself with respect to a Central Committee member or a party member that has different formulations or views on certain issues, but with the way he acts. This is very difficult to evaluate. People reveal themselves primarily in their words, yet it is the deeds that must be evaluated.

The other issue is whether our situation can be described with the word crisis, or whether we say that our situation provides scope for a way out, though in certain areas of society, in certain areas of the economy, there are crisis phenomena. After all, there are branches which now must be either reorganized, put into bankruptcy, or closed down with a change of structure.

[Rekay] This is not a linguistic matter; what is your view?

[Berecz] This is not a linguistic matter. My view is that our present situation is full of many tensions, problems, and contradictions; at the same time, while I acknowledge that there are certain areas where the tensions have a crisis character, and, what is more, with a certain stratum there is even a sense of crisis, a feeling of crisis, on the whole it cannot be said that we are in a state of crisis but that we must find the way out from a very complex, complicated, and contradictory situaiton.

[Rekay] Obviously the forthcoming party debate will concern this issue.

[Berecz] Obviously.

Second Berecz TV Interview

LD251316 Budapest Television Service in Hungarian 1830 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] [Announcer] The MSZMP Central Committee has ended its 2-day-long consultation. As is known, the subjects of the consultation were the party's leading role, the further development of the system of political institutions, and the convening of the national party conference. Janos Berecz, member of the Politburo and Secretary of the Central Committee, was our guest yesterday. We welcome him today, here in the studio.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Let me ask you right away, what did you decide on and what decisions did you reach?

[Berecz] Following the session of the Central Committee, on the basis of its commission, the Secretariat has finalized the communique on the session; I think that by now it might be here in the studio as well. It consists of three parts. The first part summarizes the debate on the system of political institutions and the leading role of the Party; the second the tasks in relation to the party conference; while in the third, one can find a summary of the ideological debate.

The Central Committee was not given a verbal report on the ideological debate; it adopted a standpoint on this debate on the basis of a previously prepared written report.

[Correspondent] Allow me to take these points one at a time. In precise and preferably everyday terms, what is the meaning of—what is new in the resolution concerning the further development of the system of political institutions?

[Berecz] Our system of political institutions developed at a time when we were primarily building from above, and the primary endeavor aimed at the manifestation of central planning, central direction, the central policy line. The reform of economic management in itself stretched these frameworks. Then, in the course of our development, the creation of the conditions for switching to intensive development, there was dissatisfaction with this system of institutions. Then the accumulation of our problems and difficulties also indicated that building from the center was not enough; it was necessary to develop the other side of socialist democracy on a larger scale; the self-dynamics of society, the endeavor toward its self-government, which is today a form of self-government, its self-organization, as the experts refer to it, which means that they should be able to form associations, clubs, for the manifestation of their interests, that the trade union should be more emphatically an interest-protection organization, and should take the strata into consideration as well, and so on. Well, in a situation such as this, the leading role of the Party must be transformed so that it should manifest it primarily through political and movement means: wide sphere must be given for the sovereignty of the people's representative organs, their sphere of authority, the manifestation of the rights and obligations of the people's representative organs; the government must be given greater independence, essentially so that the government should govern, and for this it should not only possess the rights, but these rights should be secured and the party should support this primarily; while at the same time the organization of society, its dynamics, greater expression of views, participation in the preparation of decisions and in the making of decisions and, finally, that they should be present at the control of implementation as well. [sentence as heard] Thus, this is what can be said in a rough way about the topics we are now thinking about.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that so far no schedule has been developed for this, that so far you have discussed, verified the principles; or is there more than this?

[Berecz] Well, it is more than that, for during the clarification of principles, the practice has to be thought through. However, it is still not the direct implementation which follows, for we are now putting the standpoint to be put before the party conference out to debate, and we are asking in April for the opinions of the party membership as well as those of the large national organizations, on these thoughts and conceptions.

[Correspondent] Well, let me also ask when the national party conference will be, and what we should expect from it?

[Berecz] The Cental Committee has convened the national party conference will be, and what we should expect from it?

[Berecz] The Central Committee has convened the national party conference for 20 May. One single document must, I think, be put before the national party conference: A standpoint on the reform of the system of political institutions and the society-wide expansion of the reform. of the system of political institutions and

Therefore, a program whose implementation supports the realization of the program for economic social resurgence, and points even beyond this, is also a preparation for the 14th congress.

[Correspondent] Let us turn back to the Central Committee meeting which ended today. I think everyone would ask, so I too am asking the question: Did you also make decisions about personnal matters?

[Berecz] Let me express my opinion very determindly, I would not consider it honorable if, 2 months before the party conference, we were to make decisions on personnel matters. Preparations must be made for the solution of personnel questions, and must be left up to the party conference. For this reason, naturally, no decision of this kind was made.

[Correspondent] At the Central Committee session, did a unified evaluation develop as to what the social, political, economic state of Hungarian society, more precisely of the country, is now?

[Berecz] We did not, nor could we, endeavor to have a completely unified evaluation in every aspect, for the more than 100 Central Committee members would not necessarily agree with the majority in this, that, or any other questions. But, in the most important fundamental questions, unity did develop; that the further development of our society and our economy requires significant changes, comprehensive reform, which in some of its elements will also—should also—be radical.

[Correspondent] My question is connected to this, and it is of at least equal importance to the portrayal of the state of affairs: What did you decide as to what and how must be done?

[Berecz] We are still in the period of debate, but the debate must serve for us to act. Mention was made at the Central Committee session of the mass communications organs. We established that they had arrived at the stage where they do a great deal in revealing the situation, and they do it very well. We must learn, together with mass communications, and public opinion, and also with the whole of the Party membership, Party organizations, to direct the main attention and also our main forces toward action, for without this, we cannot emerge.

[Correspondent] Can you agree that with this Central Committee session a period of, shall we say, waiting, has ended. Very many people in very many places in Hungary have been waiting and waiting. Do you think that this has ended now, or do you feel that this waiting remains perhaps simultaneously with action, and it is the Party conference for which the people will continue to wait?

[Berecz] I agree with this latter view. To say that the waiting has ended is an impossibility, and it is nonsense too, because it is a good thing that people should expect the party conference to make important decisions. But just to keep waiting... that will make us become a kind of gaping, puzzled, waiting society, where nobody helps us. It is only we who can help ourselves.

[Correspondent] Janos Berecz, thank you for the conversation.

Lukacs Interview

LD251053 Budapest Television Service in Hungarian 1950 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Interview with Janos Lukacs, secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee, by unidentified correspondent on the "News Background" program; date, place not given, recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Our guest, dear viewers, is Janos Lukacs, secretary of the party's Central Committee, who will inform us about the Central Committee session, during which they decided to convene a national party conference. This is quite unusual; this kind of thing does not happen very often; the last one was 30 or 31 years ago. Why did you decide on this?

[Lukacs] Yes, it is in truth rather unusual, for in the history of the MSZMP, this is the second party conference that has been convened. But if we look back at the 70-year history of our party, then too, we can talk about two party conferences previous to this.

I think that when the Central Committee made a decision on its convening last December—the fact of this is already known—then, primarily, it was considering that in the time since the 13th Congress, in the past years, tendencies, negative tendencies, have developed in our social life which contradict the resolutions of the 13th Congress. To name but one or two such processes: the debt stock of the country, in convertible currencies, has risen; and the aim that in this period, following the congress, we could get around, even if at a slow pace, to raising the standrad of living. We can see now that this has not happened even now, and in the coming years, too, we cannot count on a rise in the standard of living.

The convening of the conference was motivated basically by this fundamental question. There are processes that seem to contradict the resolutions of the 13th Congress. For the analysis of questions of such weight, and the indication of further tasks, it is advisable that not a central committee session, but a party conference, a party meeting of greater weight than this, should deal with this.

[Correspondent] Was it not proposed that perhaps, just because subjects of great weight are being discussed, an extraordinary party congress be convened?

[Lukacs] No. The Central Committee did not examine this question in this way, either in December or now in the sessions yesterday and today. I think, primarily, in

consideration of the fact that, however much we are in a difficult situation, we use various classifications for the situation: precrisis situation, extraordinary situation, complicated situation, worsening relations from many points of view. All the same I say, and I think many of us say, that in this country there is not a extraordinary situation, there is not an extraordinary situation in the economy either, and to name the party conference, too, and what lies behind this—that there is no extraordinary situation in the party either, that would make an extraordinary congress necessary and justified.

[Correspondent] How will the party membership be represented? Obviously you have worked out some sort of system for this.

[Lukacs] Yes.

[Correspondent] That is, as to who will participate in the party conference.

[Lukacs] Yes. Well, the decisions today, the central committee met for 2 days, and the resolutions, the decisions were made today—well, one is already known, that the central committee has convened the national conference of the MSZMP for 20 May, and along with this, on this question two important decisions were made. One is the representative order of the conference, and the other is what this conference should say, that is what the document should be.

About representation, I can say that the Central Committee has regulated the representative order of party organizations so that at this national conference, one delegate is chosen per 1,000 party members, and it has given the right of choosing delegates to the county party committees.

[Correspondent] Yes. In the television news today Janos Berecz, Central Committee secretary and Politburo member spoke about the Central Committee session today, and mentioned that they are arranging a debate before the national party conference. If I understood correctly, a social debate. Now, we are at the end of March, the party conference will be on 20 May. Will there be enough time for a debate?

[Lukacs] I would like to answer the first part of the question as well. You mentioned a social debate. I would, however, like to break this down. The Central Committee decided today to submit the draft standpoint, which was adopted today and which will be the document of the party conference, to debate primarily inside the party. It requests the party membership, the basic branches, city committees, county committees, to express their views concerning the document. I think this is one of the most significant developments, namely that taking earlier experiences also into consideration, as well as the requirement of the membership to play a greater part in the central, political, party decisions; taking this demand into consideration on this occasion as well, the party membership is to engage in consultation, discussion and debate.

[Correspondent] Now, on this point—excuse me, you wanted to say something.

[Lukacs] Yes, I would like to note that this is a social debate to the extent that in the course of today's decisions it was also decided that this draft standpoint should be submitted to the social organizations, the Academy of Sciences, the economic chamber, the interest representational organs, for their opinions: the Central Committee has requested them to do so.

[Correspondent] Well, Yes, the only question is whether there will be sufficient time for a debate, for a debate of substance.

[Lukacs] Yes, this is something that was raised in the debate both yesterday and today, that is, in the Central Committee debate. After all, there is not much time. If we take the starting point to be now, then there is a mere 2 months available, and we are also familiar with the mechanism of conducting such a debate. Nonetheless, what I can say—And this is something that we briefly discussed with the first secretaries of the county party committees—that with the appropriate organization and preparation, this debate can be conducted.

[Correspondent] Now, it can be assumed that some sort of debate will develop at the national party conference as well. It can be assumed that questions that are already the topic of lively public interest will be raised there as well. Because what you spoken about earlier, namely that our standard of living has dropped, that our stock of debts has increased, that certain inflationary processes have gathered strength, are experienced by all of us. Thus, the question arises, and in my view not without justification, whether the previous party congress set out realistic targets for us, whether its forecasts were correct, or that perhaps it did not forsee or could not forsee, certain changes.

[Lukacs] What I can say now—and I can base my answer on the decisions and resolutions of previous Central Committee sessions—is that as regarding the decisions that were made at the 13th Congress, we were unable to correctly evaluate the conditions and reality at that time. Our present decisions have a precedent to the extent that in November 1986 the Central Committee registered the unfavorable processes and a decision was made then, I would like to recall this, that a turnaround was needed because certain tendencies were working in the opposite direction from the congress decisions. I would like to refer to the July 1987 Central Committee resolution, which reevaluated the economic policy program determined at the congress and reformulated priorities, thus determining a new economic program for the time remaining.

[Correspondent] Excuse me, I think this is unquestionably so, only many people rightly think—forgive me, I am not stating this, I am asking you—are many people right to think that the reform processes should have been extended more intensively to areas of social life outside the economic sphere?

[Lukacs] Yes, this is indeed so, but I would like to return for a moment to these few years in the wake of the congress, which are the subject of discussion everywhere now, and we are saying that at this party conference that is to convene soon we will have to talk about the reasons for our failure to correctly evaluate the given conditions and circumstances, our reserves and possibilities and means, and that finally, 3 years after the congress, we have to reevaluate certain things. As we discussed at the Central Committee sessions yesterday and today, one of the reasons is that probably in the interest of the implementation of the economic policy programs and in general, the social policy programs formulated at the 13th Congress, measures should have been brought in relating to various areas. These include, for example, a review of questions connected with the system of political institutions and the necessary measures, and thinking through the strength, place, role, and mechanism of party functioning to see what has to be done to realize the goals determined at the congress.

[Correspondent] At present it cannot be an accident that we are emphasizing more powerfully that the party intends to fulfill a role of direction of principle of Hungarian public life. For in this statement another statement is hidden that has more than a grain of truth: that on occasions the party has, in the past too, taken over the role of state and social organizations in an unjustified manner, and by doing so has assumed responsibilities that it should not perhaps need to have done.

[Lukacs] Yes. this is a critical attitude regarding our practice. We are talking about recognition, and we are preparing to make decisions and measures regarding this. Certainly there is a need for us to review the system of institutions and to introduce measures there. Well, the essence of this, I too, would like to mention this briefly, that it is by now surely recognized that between party and state organs and between the party and social organs the division of tasks must be made clearer. I could say that we are talking more about this: not only the separation of duties and, as a consequence, of responsibilities, but also about how, in the coming period, the party and the state organs, the party and social organs, and the state and social organs should work with each other in a different relationship.

Still, it is only one part of the issues, because at the same time it we also need all elements and participants of the system of institutions to review their activities to seek possibilities for their renewal.

[Correspondent] Well, if one thinks it through further it may be assumed that the common affairs may be seen from further and further aspects, because obviously the party, the state, or the trade union do not examine problems from the same ideological base different conclusions are arrived at even within the party. That it is beneficial socially is evident to us perhaps, but we should not keep silent about the fact that there are people, and they are not few in number, who fear for the party's unity because of the excessive articulation of the differences of these views. Is it a justified fear in your view or not?

[Lukacs] Tehre is such fear, but we want to achieve this articulation. The more powerful expression of these interests, the better their coordination and uniting should improve. However, the condition of this is, as you have mentioned, that both the party and the state and social organs should work very much more independently and, using my own phrase, more according to their authorization than previously.

[Correspondent] I am not thinking only of this but also about the fact that within the party, too, there can exist differences of view on certain details. For example I can rightly assume that not everybody took the same position in this Central Committee session.

[Lukacs] This is the case and it is very important in this regard to determine the kind of period when we raise this point. Because now when we look for ways to renew, what type of measures we need to introduce for the state and party organs to be more effective, then it is also a serious road. I consider it natural that there are different views, ideas in this period, that there are those who espouse this more quickly, and there are those who are slower and who define the tasks more radically. I could even say that it is this precisely what we aim at; it is not a harmful but a useful phenomenon.

[Correspondent] Whether the idea was correct or not can only be proved or rejected by practice, but the theory, which is I think, quite old, is still in effect there is a time prior to the decision, during which debate is permissible, while after a decision debate is no longer permissible. Then the party expects the members to represent the party's stance. If, however, this is the case, then it can easily occur that it will be very difficult to take steps for the correction of obsolete or mistaken decisions. For if party discipline ties one, and one perhaps notices that there should be a need to change or modify a previous decision, one would find it difficult to raise one's hand and say: Excuse me, I see it differently. So is there a contradiction here?

[Lukacs] I think that in our current practice there is such a contradiction. One issue we must deal with in this connection is that we must approach this whole matter as a process. In other words, while the decision has been reached, and we must represent the decision and work for its implementation. In the meantime we would like to devote much greater attention to the different opinions.

We want to include institutional forms of this in party life, almost legitimizing them, so that those with a different opinion can go on voicing it, can ask the question to be discussed again, can even initiate a change in the resolution, on the basis of reasoned argument. In other words, I would like to say that I think that by now there is a very wide recognition that those who hold a different opinion on a certain issue should not immediately be labelled as factionalist when they voice their separate opinion after the decision has been made.

[Correspondent] In other words, the minority view can also be manifested in a given case.

[Lukacs] Yes, yes.

[Correspondent] Now I do not know how far I am expressing a separate opinion when I say that occasionally perhaps more alternatives should be presented for us to have a chance to think about variants, so that we should not look at only one plan to see whether it suits us or not, so that we are able to look at several.

[Lukacs] Yes, this is also being discussed. It was decided at today's session, among other things, that when submitting recommendations and materials it is always advisable to say what other views were expressed, what separate views, perhaps alternatives, were present when preparing the question. But I think that there is some sort of transition in this sphere as well because even in our practical social, political life at present the alternatives appear not only at the sessions but also in public. I am thinking here, and I would like to refer to, the preparatory work in connection with the July government program on the taxation system and housing construction and management, where these separate views, or alternative solutions and possibilities, have received publicity.

[Correspondent] Now, because of the publicity, people react in very different ways. You know very well that there are people who are rather impatient as regards the reform measures, while others say that matters cannot be accelerated because, I think this is how they put it, the party cannot forego the Marxist explanation of new phenomena. Now, this sounds very good but one has the impression that we spend too long considering whether a new idea can be fitted into our image of socialism. When we spend too long worrying about this, we might miss good opportunities.

[Lukacs] Yes. Excuse me, I see the problem in this issue somewhere else; primarily in whether we can ideologize our every concrete economic measure or steps of another nature. Our party has not sought to do this in the past either—I have in mind the 20-year reform period, the steps were rather unique in the entire socialist world. I think that our reply in substance to those speeding things up excessively may be that the party has a duty that it cannot place onto the shoulders of others, cannot transfer, that it should adequately weigh up the political consequences of decisions. In other words, when the party contemplates measures, when change is necessary, it must be studied as to how far these may be followed up and whether we can predict with great certainly where our planned actions lead.

[Correspondent] I think what is now preoccupying everyone is where our planned measures are leading. Let me ask you in this connection, do you think that among the people who are now listening to us, watching us—in the minds of many of them—there is an expectation that is tense. Or, more than that, even irrational? Aren't you experiencing something like this?

[Lukacs] Yes, but as it is usual in relation to very many significant events. It is the case now, too. There are many signs of this. However, first I would like to speak about the fact that I consider as justified and natural that there are expectations. After all, a national party conference is a rather significant and important event not only in the life of the party but in society, too. And I say that those who think that they expect something from this conference are thinking correctly because I believe that this party conference will decide on very important political, organizational, and personnel issues—it is expected—and quite surely these decisions can create better working conditions. Those who perhaps think about the conference and hope that the decisions will automatically, immediately result in the improvement of our situation, in the reversal of things, in results on stabilization or in resurgence—well, I say regarding those expectations, they are unfounded.

[Correspondent] Yes, but you, too, know that there are those who even now think that the aims and tasks previously planned may already be suspended by saying that: The party conference will decide and then we will start with a clean sheet. I do not think we can afford this.

[Lukacs] I completely agree with you. It would be a great danger if now, when we know the date of the party conference and when these changes may be sensed, a kind of turning inward should occur within the party.

To use your words, I would like to mention that our tasks for 1988, but I could begin earlier as well, with the Central Committee resolution last year concerning the program for resurgence, or the government work program, and all the tasks deriving from these, and in party life and social life as well because these are work plans that were approved, and they have not been suspended.

What I can say is that, among other things, even the success of the party conference depends on the work during the remaining time. After all, I do not want to leave it unsaid. Even though not on a sufficiently large scale as yet, both in the economy and in political life, certain changes can be felt. We did not begin the economic year badly, either regarding the rate of production or international trade turnover. It seems to me that everything the leadership is doing now to gain trust—

these discussions, conversations—to create consensus regarding the fundamental tasks, the currently valid tasks, can be justified only with future deeds as well. Thus, the present leadership, even without a party conference, should be open to check, to ensure that the unity of words and actions is present today. If we agree on this in the coming months then, I think, this will create a good position for all of the party conference's work.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

MSZMP Petrovszki Interview

LD262218 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1500 GMT 26 Mar 88

["168 Hours" program: studio interview with Istvan Petrovszki, head of an MSZMP Central Committee department, by program editor Akos Mester—live]

[Text] [Mester] First of all, thank you for accepting our invitation. Perhaps we should plunge straight in. Let us start with the question, does the convening of the national party conference mean what many people are supposing, that the renewal, renovation of political life cannot be delayed any further?

[Petrovszki] Yes, this is what it means. Within the past year, as is known, the Central Committee took a stance in the program for economic social resurgence, and for the realization of this, political reforms too are absolutely necessary, and the working out of which will be destined for the party conference.

[Mester] Obviously, a debate will develop in the party conference. I presume you are expecting this too. I suppose that in addition to the debates there will be specific observations, positive proposals. Are there guarantees relating to these proposals being incorporated into the process of decisionmaking, maybe into the decisions?

[Petrovszki] Yes. It was discernible already at the Central Committee session that those proposals which came up to the Central Committee from the party membership in the previous debate were accepted by the Central Committee and were incorporated into the system. And in the draft standpoint which it will offer for debate among the party membership, and in a wider sense in society too, these have already been incorporated.

[Mester] Now, as a matter of fact, the debate to date also somehow indicates that here the participants in the debate are significantly more active than usual. To what do you attribute this?

[Petrovszki] To the situation. Earlier the party membership and also the citizens saw less of the situation. In recent years we have become more open in these things. The party too has revealed more the worries and troubles which are appearing in our economic life and also our political, social, intellectual life. Well, just think of the Central Committee resolution of November 1986, where the Central Committee revealed the processes which had progressed negatively since the 15th congress. This was echoed in political public opinion, [word indistinct] the questions, and in connection with this, very many kinds of opinions developed, both within the party membership, and also in the circle of those outside the party.

[Mester] Now, you too say that many kinds of opinions developed. Consequently, among these there are also quite extreme manifestations. Were you surprised by such extreme manifestations within the circle of party membership? And does this follow as a matter of course from the present situation, or did people previously speak just as sharply as now?

[Petrovszki] We did not come across these kinds of sharp formulations, despite the fact that we were not now surprised by the mass of opinions. For, we have been continuing a dialogue with the party membership for half a year already in connection with the exchange of party membership cards. We spoke individually to every party member. The content, as a matter of fact, of these individual conversations corresponded to the debate which the party members carried out in January in the party organizations in connection with the theses of the document.

[Mester] Now, do you think that the party membership is preoccupied with the same questions as, say, the leaders of the party?

[Petrovszki] I think so, except that the party membership perceives the individual problems in a more differentiated, partial way, and primarily make contributions on this basis; whereas the party leaders handle these questions in a more comprehensive way, with a more overall view. And because of this, the opinions of the party membership in relation to certain questions is much sharper than the opinions of the party leaders in this respect.

[Mester] But is this acceptable, is it a good thing? I think that this leads to further tensions. That is, if the party leadership does not put those subjects onto the agenda, and does not wish to discuss those subjects which preoccupy the party members, then party unity is difficult to achieve on this.

[Petrovszki] It is not a good thing in any way, for this has been stated by the party membership too, quite sharply. For example, they said that the leading role of the party, its standing, had significantly fallen in recent years, its mass influence had weakened, often it is not capable of heading social processes, it is late, at times it acts under the influence of external necessity, and so on. Or, that the Unity of the party has weakened to a significant degree, the party membership and particularly the higher leadership have discernibly grown apart from each other. The party membership feels these things, as does the party leadership.

It is not a good thing. These must be brought together. The way to do this is primarily for the party leadership to talk more with the party membership, it should inform them more, should familiarize them with the forming, shaping of politics; they should think together, and should compare their views.

[Mester] Is there universal agreement or are there differences of views within the party membership regarding the need to rethink the leading role of the party and bring the system of political institutions up to date?

[Petrovszki] There is agreement among all the party membership and in the party leadership, as well as the Central Committee.

[Mester] Are there no conservative views.

[Petrovszki] Yes, there are. The range is between extremes, but agreement is manifested by the fact that some approach the question of the leading role, modernization, and the reform of the political institutions in the old, habitual ways, being concerned with the preservation of power and wanting to salvage everything, even things that can no longer be salvaged today.

[Mester] Excuse me, but if I understand you correctly, no one has any doubt that the time has come for both topics to be put on the agenda, but there are different interpretations.

[Petrovszki] That is correct. Everyone agrees with changes, both within the party and in the system of political institutions. It is only the extent of the changes on which the party membership is divided, too.

[Mester] Many listeners have phoned to ask questions. For example, Monika Koeszegi, on 311-327, reminds us that Prime Minister Karoly Grosz said last year that one of the faults of our political life is that there is no competition. The listener asks what the Central Committee department head understands by this sentence.

[Petrovszki] I think the esteemed questioner is referring to political competition when she quotes Karoly Grosz' words; and I think she is right. In this context, the question of a multiparty system has also arisen recently...

[Mester, interrupting] Excuse me, but two people, Tamas Vajk and Gyoergy Csanaday, on 124-456 and 663-599, ask the same thing: Is it possible that a multiparty system will be introduced in Hungary?

[Petrovszki] In principle, the multiparty system is not forbidden under socialist conditions. There is no reason which to exclude the possibility of a multiparty system. In our country, however, the situation has developed during the course of our history, first in 1948 and then at the end of 1956, where the existing parties either completely agreed with the policy of the Communist Party or the HSWP or were radically opposed to workers' power, and for this reason they had to succumb. And thus, this one-party system became established in our country during the course of history.

There are socialist countries, however, where, as is common knowledge, several parties exist. These are loyal to the existing power and accept the society-leading political influence of the communist parties there.

[Mester] I think that saying that this is how things have developed in our history is not a new answer to this question. I think the real question should be whether we are able to establish in an institutionalized form the pluralism of opinions and views.

[Petrovszki] Yes, this is our view, and this is contained in the latest Central Committee session and the already-mentioned draft standpoint, the one that is to be submitted for debate. Our position is that there must be political pluralism; and political pluralism already exists in our society. But we must be aware of it and deal with it. Moreover, we must require it. It is necessary that the party be prevented from making mistakes by social organizations, communities of citizens, movements which warn and offer new political alternatives or different political alternatives and which express certain interests or represent certain social strata.

[Mester] Dora Gal on 128-543 asks: Why does the party arrogate to itself the exclusive right to lead?

[Petrovszki] The party in no way arrogates to itself the exclusive right to lead. On the contrary, this is what is being raised here with the reinterpretation of the political leading role, to make it clear that the party endeavors, offers, and wishes to lead the socialist society through its political-influencing strength, its ideas and political programs. But this policy is legitimized by the correctness of the above, its objectivity, acceptability to the people and its implementation on behalf of the people.

[Mester] Yes, but you must know very well that there are some who are made anxious by this new concept about the fundamental value of politics. Dora Gal's second question is as follows: Does workers' power exist in Hungary, and if so how is it expressed?

[Petrovszki] I think one can no longer speak of exclusive workers' power. Our constitution also enshrines the power of the people. This people is much more united now, making it impossible for us to draw borderlines between classes, which in the past had separated classes in the classical sense. It is more united now. This people's national unity has developed in the soil of the alliance policy. In many respects one can no longer speak of separate classes; and therefore we speak of people's power. But in this people, the sector of the workers, manual workers—who represent the larger segment of those in employment—is dominant; and in this, workers play a determining role.

[Mester] Will the party's policy toward the intelligentsia change? I consider this question justified because I have heard many times that certain leaders have a tendency to underestimate the role of the intelligentsia in society.

[Petrovszki] I do not know who these people are but in any case if they underestimate the role of the intelligentsia they are very wrong. The party's policy does not underestimate them. It is another matter that the role of the intelligentsia really have been devalued in our society in recent times, and this must now be remedied.

Without a creative intelligentsia a society cannot exist. It is the spirit, the spiritual creative force of the intelligentsia which primarily takes society forward. This does not mean that the party must become some sort of a party for the intelligentsia. It is, after all, a workers' party. It was brought into existence in times past by the working class through its own revolutionary spirit. But it is now in the fundamental interest of this working class, too, that in the society it has created the intelligentsia it has itself produced should be recognized and should serve its homeland and all the people with its knowledge and intellect. We must therefore hold the intelligentsia in high esteem today.

[Mester] Specific measures will have to be taken to back up these thoughts because otherwise there is a danger that this political endeavor and intention are degraded into a mere slogan, and that would be very wrong.

[Petrovszki] Yes, of course. The political program here includes the incorporation of the intelligentsia in the leadership, in public life, and their material and moral recognition. This of course depends once again primarily on the country's situation, but today this is the top program: the revaluation of knowledge and in this context the role, social role of the intelligentsia.

[Mester] How are the interests of those outside the party asserted when the resolution of the party conference is implemented?

[Petrovszki] Party members live in society, and we have asked party members to ask around, including nonparty members, when they come to the party conference, and their political mandate also comes from them.

[Mester] I presume this is so because we are talking about a matter which concerns the whole of society and the party cannot regard it as its internal affair.

[Petrovszki] Yes, we are talking primarily about the cause of society. It will also deal with the Hungarian party's internal affairs, but the main question nevertheless is the cause of Hungarian society. I would also add that the draft standpoint of the party conference will be published next week as a supplement to NEPSZABADSAG. Every citizen has the right to add his voice.

[Mester] Sandor Sip has telephoned from Dunakeszi asking if secret ballots will be introduced in the Central Committee.

[Petrovszki] Secret ballots are a general feature within the party in matters pertaining to the filling of functions. In the coming period this will happen in the Central Committee too.

[Mester] Ilona Suska asks: Will the nonparty members of the intelligentsia also be given greater opportunity to enter the higher leadership in decisionmaking positions?

[Petrovszki] Yes. In our country every function, even the highest state office, can be filled by nonmembers, and it would also be desirable that nonparty members of the intelligentsia should occupy high places in public life.

[Mester] Endre Polgar asks: In the past the party leadership decided to renew the system of cadre selection, but since then nothing can be read about this in published party documents. Will this be discussed at the party conference?

[Petrovszki] Cadre work will also be discussed, but I would add that a new system of selecting cadres is already in practice. This consists of a system of applications for positions, appointment for a fixed period, and especially selection from a large pool.

[Mester] Allow me to make my own personal remark snow. In my view it would be very important to clarify that the party apparat is not identical to the party.

[Petrovszki] Certainly not, and nor are the leaders of the party apparat who are at the same time officials of certain party organs identical to the party. The party is represented by its membership of 860,000 and its organizations and bodies. No elected official, and especially no member of the apparat, has the right to take measures on behalf of the power, in place of the party, on the party's behalf, and especially in a personal way.

In recent times quite a few false and perhaps exaggerated views have emerged regarding the party apparat, as if it were the apparat that exercised power. There is no question of this. We want to continue to regulate the role of the apparat. Our opinion is that the apparat is there to serve the elected bodies and to carry out tasks when commissioned by the elected bodies.

[Mester] Yes, but every member of the apparat ought be aware of this.

[Petrovszki] That is right.

[Mester] You mention that there are misconceptions regarding the apparat. One of these is concerned with the size of the apparat. One hears numbers which I am convinced are absolutely false.

[Petrovszki] Yes, I myself have read a letter which spoke of 50,000. We in the party pay salaries to 4,000 political employees. This includes the party's Central Committee's apparat, the county apparats, the town and village secretaries, the institutions of the Central Committee: the Political Academy, the Party History Institute, and also the Sociology Institute.

[Mester] It became clear from statements made after the Central Committee session that personnel changes will be made during or after the party conference. In connection with this, does the party consider it important that its leading officials should have personal features which can easily distinguish them from one another, that their credibility should emanate not only from the political program they represent but also from their personality?

[Petrovszki] Yes, this would be desirable, and I think recently politicians who have a face of their own in their own assessment of certain phenomena and and processes and also as a result of their individual temperament have been appearing increasingly. I think it would be good if there were within a political party politicians who differ from one another on certain questions and who do not represent a given policy in a uniform manner.

[Mester] Let me make a very subjective remark in connection with this. It is extremely heartening to see that an increasing number of political leaders are recognizing the opportunities offered by making public appearances, but I think it ought to be recognized that there is a technique to public appearances which can be learned. In other words, without the force of conviction public appearances are worth little, I think.

[Petrovszki] This is especially important within the party and especially for the party's leaders. We want to convince the Hungarian population, citizens, about our policies. But only a person capable of projecting a strength of conviction who can also exercise this with suitable means can do this.

[Mester] Has the practice of the selection of cadres or the question of whether there is a need to change this practice come up in the debates? The question is justified by the fact that increasingly impatient voices are heard about the fact that the rejuvenation of the leading bodies, the change of generations, is unsatisfactory.

[Petrovszki] This is true. A whole generation is virtually missing from the leadership, especially from the political leadership which is present in public life. There is a great need for placing 30-40-year.olds into positions of leadership, for introducing new colors, new faces who represent a generation, into the political arena, and this is certainly a task for us which cannot be postponed.

[Mester] Do the party's activities get the necessary publicity, in your opinion? If people are not properly informed, then someone is certainly at fault, either the mass media or maybe those in charge of the mass media. What is your opinion?

[Petrovszki] The party's activities do not get enough publicity; much more publicity and openness are needed in party work. And it is the decision of the Central Committee that in the future there will be substantial changes in this. I do not blame the mass media for the fact that less information is given about this. I blame those who inform the mass media. I think we must give much more information to the mass media, journalists, so that they can judge themselves what it is which is addressed to the broader public, and so that they can orient themselves in the maze of politics. So much greater openness and publicity are needed even in workshop work.

[Mester] If this is so, then obviously much more must be revealed to the public than we have revealed until now. And I think we have eschewed—or certain people have eschewed—some reform steps because they have been concerned about the preservation of the basic values of socialism.

I believe, I am convinced, that more conversations of this kind would be needed and not just on such special occasions as the central committee session and the fact that the national party conference will take place in May. So dialogue of this kind should become a habitual and everyday occurrence.

[Petrovszki] I couldn't agree more.

USSR National Minority Policy Analyzed

AU280820 Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 19 Mar 88 p 6

[Article by Peter Barabas: "National Minorities and Glasnost"]

[Text] At the beginning of the 1980's, there were Soviet scientists who spoke about the emergence of a new Soviet nation or supernation. Encouraged by the unquestionable results of the national minority policy, they thought that a new ethnic community, a Soviet national profile was emerging. Even the idea that the constitution should establish the concept of a uniform Soviet nation, and that individual republics should cease was considered in the course of formulating the new constitution.

At the time, the Soviet leadership described this proposal as erroneous and stressed that the social and political unity of the Soviet people did not indicate that national differences had disappeared. The official rejection of the unrealistic proposals, however, was not accompanied by an open exploration of national minority problems. At that time, indeed, this kind of openness was not characteristic of other areas of life, either. This is why it is not

surprising that now, when Soviet life is characterized by an unrefined evaluation of difficulties, national minorities are making their voice heard. This is the result of a democratic atmosphere which tolerates even the questioning of decisions so far believed to be irrevocable.

What Is at Stake in Kazakhstan [subhead]

There does not have to be real trouble for difficulties obstructing the coexistence of 101 nations and national minorities to surface. Surely it is a gigantic task for the country's leadership to remain sensitive to the national feelings and particularities of 132 million Russians, 42 million Ukrainians, 12 million Uzbeks, 9 million Belorussians, 6 million Kazakhs, 6 million Tatars, 5 million Azerbaydjanis, and 4 million Armenians. And so far we have said nothing about the other, smaller nations, like, the Negidals who hunt and fish in the valley of the Amur River; there only are 504 of them, but they are as jealous of their traditions as members of the large nations.

It is not only the national minorities' sensitivity, but also their opportunities to openly explore their previous sensitivity which have increased at present. Indeed, it was the CPSU which rejected earlier statements that national minority relations are free from difficulties and proposed exploring the truth. The party took a stand against the practice of covering up of national minority problems and pointed out that national and self-awareness national minority self-awareness, and feelings of national pride are a part of Soviet reality.

Sometimes it is difficult for this pride to be confronted with the harsh reality of reorganization. This is what happened in Kazakhstan, where nationalism was the response to action taken against corruption, protectionism, and lack of principles. On the surface, the young people marching in the streets wrote national slogans on their banners; in reality, however, they took a stand for conservatism. This is how this apparently nationalist demonstration led to a conflict between old and new, a conflict where the stake was one's support for, or rejection of the changes, rather than one's belonging to the Russian or the Kazakh nation.

The Tatars of Crimea [subhead]

Front lines are naturally not always so clear. Moreover, it is not always fronts which confront each other. When the Crimean Tatars marched to the Red Square in the summer of 1987, they composed declarations, organized rallies, and sought their truth while alluding to injustices rooted in the historical past. In 1944, Tatars were relocated from the Crimean Peninsula to Central Asia because some of them cooperated with the fascist occupiers. Within several weeks, 250,000 out of the 400,000 Tatars living in Crimea were transferred to Central Asia, under circumstances which were not exactly peaceful.

The moral weight of this collective punishment was already eased in 1967, when the Supreme Soviet Presidium restored the rights of the Crimean Tatars. Moscow did not react with power, although the 1987 events were not devoid of extremist behavior and the demands also seemed unreal, because at present 20,000 out of the 2.5 million inhabitants of the Crimea are Tatars. In Uzbekistan, however, they play an important role in agriculture.

The leadership also recognized that the way this extremely sensitive and complicated problem was solved was a test for reorganization and openness. It transpires from recent reports that, in addition to restoring the rights of the Crimean Tatars—for example, ensuring them mother-tongue instruction—their organized relocation has also started. Families belonging to the Crimean Tatar nationality group will be able to settle on the Crimean steppe regions; the rate of their settlement will depend on how past the right conditions are established.

Attempts by some Westerners to play the role of defense attorneys for the persecuted were already discernible in the course of the Crimean Tatars' actions. And the anti-Soviet demonstrations that occurred in the capitals of the Baltic republics in August 1987 were clearly inspired by the West. The intention to rouse the masses by demonstrations timed to coincide with the anniversary of the Soviet-German nonagression Pact, however, proved unsuccessful, and attempts to provoke the authorities into using force were even less successful. Moreover, there was proof that Western circles are attaching great hopes to exploding of the "ethnic bomb." It is clear that intensification of national minority conflicts narrows down the scope of the Soviet leaders and is able to halt the momentum of reorganization.

The Armenian Demonstrators [subhead]

This danger is brought to mind by national minority disturbances in recent weeks in Armenia and Azerbaijan which were the largest national minority disturbances so far. The mostly Armenian population of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast took to the streets demanding to join Armenia. Representatives of the regional council also asked the supreme organs to examine the legality of this demand. The mass demonstrations which then occurred in Yerevan demonstrated that the issue of where this small region belongs can arouse stormy sentiments.

Only 123,000 Armenians live in this territory which is enclosed by Azerbaijan and which does not even have a common border with Armenia; and in addition, their living conditions are better than those of the Azerbaijanis. It is therefore clear that the size of the demonstrations was not proportional to the problem. Passions also spread to other cities, causing more than 30 deaths in Azerbaijan's second largest city, Sumgait.

Although an atmosphere of violent acts is the least conducive to objective inquiry, Moscow did not avoid it. The various positions not only reflected regret about the events, but also tried to find real reasons for them. These positions also held the region's party committee responsible for offenses against the Armenians and for obstructing Armenians' relations with Armenia. Dismissing the region's party secretary is only one aspect of the intention to amend the situation.

Speaking about the consequences of the 1923 territorial settlement, the Soviet spokesman also spoke about real problems, and said that theoretically speaking, he did not preclude the possibility of modifying the borders of republics and territories. The task, however, was more complex than this.

Solution Instead of Appearances [subhead]

According to Yegor Yakovlev, chief editor of MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI, "In implementing the national minority policy, those mistakes and deficiencies which manifest themselves were characteristic of the previous era when words where used to replace actions." Yegor Yakovlev criticizes Stalin for oversimplifying the national minority problem; this oversimplification also resulted in the fact that in the recent decades, not even one single important step has been taken to develop the statehood or federation of the Soviet republics.

Despite its share of enormous tasks, the present Soviet leadership is not trying to avoid the unsolved problems of the national minority issue, either. It is clear that this is a vulnerable area that could be used by opponents of the reform. There are already indications that some people regard national minority quarrels as warning signs and see in them the dangers inherent in democratization and openness.

Mikhail Gorbachev's message to the Armenian and Azerbaijani workers also proves that the Soviet leadership is trying to find a real solution and not only to maintain a semblance of peace and order. The CPSU Central Committee will devote a special session to national minority issues and intends to lay down the concrete way to solve social, economic, cultural, and other problems. However, the Central Committee has no intention of refraining from dealing with the emerging problems until then, either. These problems have been spectacularly appearing nowadays.

In his book on restructuring, Mikhail Gorbachev writes: "Compared with the hatred among nations present even in the most developed countries of the world, the Soviet Union is a really singular example in the history of civilization." The courage and openness with which national minority policy is nowadays handled guarantees that this multinational country should come out of these current difficulties stronger than before.

Spokesman Briefs Press on Council Session

LD260122 Budapest MTI in English
2140 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Budapest, March 25 (MTI)—The government spokesman gave the following briefing on the Friday session of the Hungarian Council of Ministers in Budapest:

The Council of Ministers passed a decree on the duties and authority of the minister of the interior, the minister of trade, the minister of environmental protection and water management and the president of the National Price Office.

As legal successor to the Secretariat of the Council of Ministers and the Information Office of the Council of Ministers, the government set up the Office of the Council of Ministers which is the operative organization of the Council of Ministers, the government committees, as well as of the chairman of the Council of Ministers and his deputies and acts as a national authority of state administration in the field of press management.

The Council of Ministers decided to set up its councils board to render its relations with the councils more direct and more effective and to coordinate the work of the government and the councils.

The Council of Ministers marked out the tasks of legislation for the period from 1988 to 1990.

Following the session of the Council of Ministers, Government Spokesman Rezso Banyasz first answered questions related to the discussed themes. To a question on the office of the Council of Ministers, he said that it will not take over the particular tasks of the ministries, nor will it be inserted as an apparatus between the ministries and the Council of Ministers. It will pay an important part in putting into practice all-governmental considerations, in working out well-grounded decisions and in providing the government and the prime minister with reliable information on execution. Considering that the Parliament approved the closure of the information office as an autonomous state secretariat, in the future the office of the Council of Ministers will be in charge of the press management tasks that the press law formerly referred to the competence of the information office.

The spokesman also reported on the legislative plans of the government. He said in the second half of the year they will deal with the bill on economic partnerships, and they might possibly discuss still this year the bill on associations and the parliament-initiated draft law on national minorities. Next year's plans include amendment of the law on the election of parliamentary deputies and council members, the drafting of the new acts on postal affairs and information science and technology, as well as modification of the regulation pertinent to

national economic planning and the budget reform. The new code and law on customs law, announcements of public concern and offences are to be framed in 1990.

The spokesman expressed the satisfaction of the government over the news that Bela Bartok's remains will soon be returned to Hungary. He said that remains of the great Hungarian musical genius of the 20th century will be buried in the Farkasret cemetery of Budapest. With this, the final will of Bela Bartok that he would like to return home for good has been completed. The spokesman voiced gratitude to the descendents of Bela Bartok for this noble gesture, with which they contributed to returning the remains. The metropolitican council, fulfilling the wish of the entire nation, is to donate a tomb site worthy of the prominent composer.

The reporter of "MAGYAR HIRLAP" asked Rezso Banyasz's opinion on the criticism by certain Western mass media organs with respect to the spokesman's answer at his March 10th press conference to the question referring to the group calling itself the 'Democratic Forum'. Rezso Banyasz said, "the first basic principle of a genuinely democratic debate is to quote each other's opinions in an exact manner. These mass media organs attributed statements to the spokesman which were not made. Rezso Banyasz recalled what he said about the so-called 'Democratic Forum': The government has no knowledge of such an organization, as there was no official announcement on the founding of such a forum, representatives of the government were not invited for its session. He also called attention that, strangely enough, no Western mass media organs reported on his remarks on the usefulness of the mainly intellectual gatherings, and their sober and responsible atmosphere. In conclusion, the said mass media organs reported that the spokesman addressed antisemitist and anti- Gypsy remarks to the participants of certain forums. However, his statement contained no antisemitist reference, and he did not even refer to the so-called 'Democratic Forum' on account of anti-Gypsy attitudes.

TU Secretary Comments on Manpower Policy

AU280815 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 23 Mar 88 pp 1,3

[Interview with Sandor Nagy, secretary of the National Trade Union Council and chairman of the Employment Policy Council by Zoltan Hegyes: "Support for the Government's Manpower Policy"; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] The National Trade Union Council [SZOT] recently established the Employment Policy Council. This body has already held several sessions and the outline of the work, which it accepted and which it will have to carry out in the future, are becoming increasingly more defined. We interviewed Dr Sandor Nagy, secretary of SZOT, who also functions as chairman of the Employment Policy Council, on the conditions of establishing the council and its tasks.

[Hegyes] What necessitated the establishment of the Employment Policy Council? Who are its members?

[Nagy] The difficulties of the country are at the same time also the difficulties of the trade union members and the Hungarian trade unions. The trade union cannot remain idle when employment policy tensions are emerging in our economy, and it must seek and find the forms within which it will also be able to contribute toward alleviating the tensions and difficulties. Although for the time being the council can do nothing else, it would like to contribute to formulating the ideas of the trade union movement concerning comprehensive employment policy, and to do so by means of its observations and proposals which will be supported by facts; in addition, the council would like to support the government's manpower policy, including regrouping and retraining activities. [passage omitted]

[Hegyes] Because of the fact that difficulties in finding jobs are also partially related to the ongoing process of reorganizing the economic structure, I would like to know the trade unions' opinion on structural reorganization.

[Nagy] The economic strength of a country can be primarily assessed according to the goods it produces. Modern economic structure and efficient employment are required for this. This is the reason that the SZOT unambiguously supports the efforts to reorganize economic structure. The system of retraining within enterprises should be renewed, and we give our full support to this. The system of retraining should also be integrated into the state system of educational institutions. The trade unions will do their utmost to contribute useful advice and proposals—among other things—to this work. In order to develop the system of retraining, I think we should also make use of the experiences of certain Western countries. [passage omitted]

Opinions on Economic Reform Reported

AU251651 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 22 Mar 88 pp 1,5

[Ilona Kocsi report: "Alternative Models of Socialist Economic Management"]

[Excerpts] It has been a long time since Hungary hosted an international conference which was as rich in exciting contributions as the conference currently being held in Gyor. The event entitled "Alternative Models of Socialist Economic Systems" allowed the participants to express their opinions. [passage omitted]

Tibor Simo (Social Sciences Institute) said that structural change—because reform cannot be satisfied with less—presumes the existence of a system of social institutions which is organized from the bottom to the top. At the same time, Simo stressed, this means that there is a distribution of power within the system of political

institutions in which the National Assembly can function as a national assembly, the government as a government, interest organizations as interest organizations, and so on, according to their own norms and logic. In the framework of this system of social institutions, everyone does what he knows how to do, and the interests can only be asserted through institutionalized democratic procedures. The lecturer's example was clear and convincing: This kind of social organization characterized the Scandinavian countries when they moved from the periphery to the center [sentence as published]. The national per capita income in Finland in 1937, for example, was less than in Hungary; today, Finland's national per capita income is five times higher. Structural change will perhaps enable us to avoid becoming the "second" Third World.

This dramatic tone is understandable when one considers that the CEMA countries have been gradually losing ground in the world economy. This is also true of Hungary in several respects. Balint Szabo (Party History Institute) mentioned a few relevant details. Within the relations in CEMA, for example, the proportion of raw materials in Hungarian exports to the Soviet Union increased from 33.9 to 50 percent from 1970 to 1983 whereas the proportion of machinery and finished products decreased from 66 to 50 percent. The proportion of materials in our imports increased from 75 to 81 percent, and the proportion of finished products decreased from 25 to 19 percent. Methods which only simulated the market—instead of the market itself—did not provide the adequate orientation for the enterprises.

Eszter Lang (The Marxism-Leninism Institute of the Medical University of Debrecen), who talked about "temporary" economy, said that the present period cannot do without the developed production of goods and developed financial management. Of course the market is not omnipotent either, and it itself also carries and creates its own contradictions. However, if we succeed in establishing a real market, we will create clearer conditions. Our work will be evaluated. At the same time she also stressed—together with quite a few other speakers—that this does not at all mean that the state or political bodies should withdraw from economy. The main issue is the methods and means that the state should use in giving guidance, while considering the laws directing economic behavior. [passage omitted]

French Foreign Minister Visit Continues

Grosz Receives Raimond

LD251757 Budapest MTI in English
1610 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Budapest, March 25 (MTI)—Following the discussions of the general secretary of the HSWP and the leader of French diplomacy, Karoly Grosz, chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers, met the French foreign minister, Jean-Bernard Raimond.

The meeting with Janos Kadar lasted longer than planned, thus the many French journalists waiting in the office of the Hungarian prime minister had the opportunity to ask questions directly of the chairman of the Council of Ministers, to complement the official information. Karoly Grosz informed the journalists on the internal and foreign political efforts of Hungary, and the development of Hungarian-French relations.

At the discussions between Karoly Grosz and Jean-Bernard Raimond, reviewing the international situation, the Hungarian prime minister spoke appreciatively about the positive role played by the French Republic in the shaping of international life. Both the Hungarian and the French side termed bilateral political relations as good, at the same time it was noted that economic relations lag behind the opportunities. Cultural cooperation also offers similar, unutilized opportunities, and the Hungarian side encouraged a more balanced and planned development in the interest of intensifying these.

The talks between Hungary and the Common Market, currently in progress, were also touched on during the meeting. On the request of Jean-Bernard Raimond, Karoly Grosz gave a brief on the current efforts of the Hungarian economic reform, and the related measures of the government. In conclusion, the sides reviewed the concrete opportunities for industrial and technical and scientific cooperation.

Present at the discussion were Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Varkonyi, and Rezso Palotas, Hungarian ambassador to France, and Christiane Malitchanko, French ambassador to Hungary.

Varkonyi Meets With Raimond

LD251752 Budapest MTI in English
1620 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Budapest, March 25 (MTI)—The demand to intensify Hungarian-French relations was also formulated during the official Hungarian-French foreign ministerial talks which opened Thursday evening at the residence of the high-ranking guest, then continued Friday morning in the Foreign Ministry.

The host, Hungarian foreign Minister Peter Varkonyi, and Jean-Bernard Raimond held talks in an open, sincere atmosphere and in the spirit of striving for mutual understanding. The agenda mainly included bilateral contacts. The foreign ministers voiced the mutual interestedness of the two countries in further developing relations in all walks of life. They stressed the necessity of maintaining high-level political contacts, and mutually took the stand that more powerful progress has to be achieved in economic relations.

Jean-Bernard Raimond stressed: France supports the establishment of relations between the Hungarian People's Republic and the European Economic Community. It makes efforts that the talks in progress on the commercial and cooperation agreement lead to success.

Evaluating the international situation, the foreign ministers briefed each other on the positions of their countries in the issues of East-West relations, disarmament, European peace and security. They stated with satisfaction that favourable tendencies can be experienced in the international situation. Further efforts are required in the interest that these positive processes become lasting and irreversible, both from the part of the great powers and the small and medium states.

Present at the discussions of the foreign ministers were Rezso Palotas and Christiane Malitchanko [Hungarian and French ambassadors].

Raimond Meets Marjai, Szuros

LD251808 Budapest MTI in English
1644 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Budapest, March 25 (MTI)—Friday afternoon in Parliament, French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond met Hungarian Deputy Prime Minister Jozsef Marjai, minister of trade. At the open and sincere discussions, the sides exchanged views on the development of bilateral economic relations, on general and concrete issues of cooperation, mainly on opportunities to expand industrial cooperation.

Also in the afternoon, the leader of French diplomacy met Matyas Szuros, secretary of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party and chairman of the foreign affairs committee of the National Assembly. At the cordial meeting, the sides discussed several major international issues, and reviewed opportunities to develop bilateral cooperation, with particular attention devoted to relations between the legislative bodies.

Also present at both meetings were Rezso Alotas and Christiane Malitchanko [Hungarian and French ambassadors].

Raimond Grants Interview

LD272101 Budapest MTI in English
1823 GMT 27 Mar 88

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Budapest, March 27 (MTI)—French Minister of Foreign Affairs Jean-Bernard Raimond, who paid an official visit to Hungary this week, in his interview to the Hungarian television's political feature "het" (week) told among others:

'It was my privilege to see Janos Kadar, the general secretary of the HSWP. I handed over the letter of the French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac.

He pointed out:

'We would like to improve relations with Hungary. These relations are good at present, but we would achieve further improvement in industrial cooperation... I told to several of mine [as received] negotiating parties that France is supporting, since months, the Hungarian stance, or rather aim, to create a closer cooperation between Hungary and the European Community. According to France the signature of this bilateral agreement is necessary. It is my view as well, regarding both political and technical details. We have already taken the preparations required for the agreement. We also provided help in finding compromises with the 12 EEC member states, in order to sign the agreement. We are already prepared for the signature...'

—Could it mean months?

'No. At this phase the things are going at an accelerated rate...

—Weeks are needed?

'Yes. But I asked my negotiating parties that by respecting the principle of mutuality it would be better if Hungary took a few steps in opening up its market...

'Each of my negotiating parties were satisfied with my confirmation that France is supporting the agreement and that important steps have already been taken towards the signing of the agreement—said the French minister of foreign affairs.

Raimond Meets With Archbishop

LD252324 Budapest MTI in English
2123 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Budapest, March 25 (MTI)—French Minister of Foreign Affairs Jean-Bernard Raimond met Archbishop of Esztergom Laszlo Paskai, president of the Hungarian bishops' bench at the residence of the archbishop in Budapest on Friday afternoon. The head of the French diplomacy learned the activity of the Catholic Church and the development of relations between the Hungarian church and state.

During the day Jean-Bernard Raimond laid a wreath with military honours to the statue of the Hungarian heroes at the heroes' square.

As the final program of the visit the French minister of foreign affairs informed the press on his negotiations.

News Conference, Departure

LD260038 Budapest MTI in English
2238 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Budapest, March 25 (MTI)—Concluding his official visit, Fench Minister of Foreign Affairs Jean-Bernard Raimond left Budapest. The French foreign minister

was accompanied to Hungary by his wife. The head of the French diplomacy was seen off at Ferihegy Airport by his host, Peter Varkonyi, Hungarian minister of foreign affairs, and his wife. Rezso Palotas, Hungary's ambassador to France, and Christiane Militchenko, France's ambassador to Hungary, were also present.

At the press conference held prior to his departure, the French minister of foreign affairs said his visit to Hungary had been useful and promising. He stressed that his experiences filled him with confidence for the future of Hungarian-French relations. Further on he expounded: France is aware that Hungary is doing much in the interest of shaping the future of Europe. In his country a great eagerness is present towards the dynamic Hungarian diplomatic activity, which will be provided with further help from the French side. In this spirit it was decided that France shall support the soonest possible reaching of an agreement between Hungary and the European Economic Community.

Jean-Bernard Raimond also said that during his short visit to Budapest he had successfull negotiations with leading Hungarian personalities and he had the honour to meet Janos Kadar, to whom he forwarded the greetings of Prime Minister Jaques Chirac. As he emphasized: The discussions contributed to having a comprehensive picture on the Hungarian economic, trade and cultural life. Opportunities opened up to outline in which fields could the development of the relations be possible in the long run. Agreement was reached on the exchange of professionals for discussing the details of the cooperation. Reviewing the international situation primarily the disarmament, arms control and security questions were discussed.

At the inquiry of the newsmen the minister of foreign affairs told that at the present meeting the visa issue was an important item. He said: They are aware of the fact that for such a socialist country where people can freely travel the visa regulations pose severe problems. In France a wide range of measures were already taken in order to make the visa system more flexible. He gave word that after his return he will have discussions with the competent authorities on the issue.

He also reminded that the common market has monthly sessions and at these meetings he will personally try to take steps in order to reach a trade agreement with Hungary. He referred to the fact that his country has already removed volume limitations. But certain countries of the European Community have problems in making advancements in this field. According his view the wider opening of the Hungarian market would promote the agrement with the EEC. Responding to a question on the new building of the French institute in Budapest he emphasized that its creation was hampered by bureucratic hindrances and he expressed hope that the institution, which makes the French culture widely available in Hungary, receives a new home in the Hungarian capital, as soon as possible.

Paper Views Visit

PM281108 Paris LE MONDE in French 27-28 Mar 88 p 16

[Claire Trean dispatch: "France and Hungary: Restoring Political Dialogue"]

[Text] Budapest—Jean-Bernard Raimond's second last visit abroad (Footnote) (Jean-Bernard Raimond will make an official visit to Morocco on 30 and 31 March) is also his first visit to Hungary. The foreign minister began his visit to Budapest on Thursday 24 March by apologizing for the delay in making this visit and it was probably these explanations which persuaded Peter Varkonyi, his Hungarian counterpart, to remove from his welcoming speech the sentence in which he regretted the fact that France "does not seem to be paying the appropriate attention to the Eastern part of Europe."

This accusation of indifference made against France was obvious in the commentaries published in the Hungarian press and in the short statement made to French journalists by Prime Minister Grosz, in which he stressed the "misunderstandings" which he thinks exist between the two countries. "People in France do not seem to understand our economic objectives or our desire to extend our relations with the EEC," Mr Grosz explained before his meeting with the French minister.

These 2 days of talks will certainly have cleared up some of these misunderstandings and, even if there have been no spectacular results, they will at least have paved the way for a better future in relations between the two countries.

Indeed, France has some good reasons for wishing to restore contacts with this country which have been rather neglected over recent years. France values the desire for reform and openness which Hungary has shown for a long time, Jean-Bernard Raimond stressed. The minister also reaffirmed that, at the worst point in "negotiations" on East-West relations, in the early eighties, Hungary was the only East European country (with the GDR) to maintain its dialogue with the West, against Moscow's advice, and he paid tribute to the particularly active role played by Hungary within the CSCE, which is the process most likely to help overcome the division of the Old Continent.

These good reasons were strongly confirmed in Budapest and, at the end of these 2 days, Jean-Bernard Raimond seemed genuinely surprised to discover how much was to be gained from visiting the Hungarians. This country clearly thinks that its future lies only with Western Europe, or even in Western Europe. Although the process of reform in the USSR is creating a particularly favorable climate for little countries like Hungary to make their voices heard, and although it also favors the continuation of the very bold internal reforms in Hungary, the economic situation is very unfavorable. This was the message which the Budapest leaders gave: If the

Hungarian "model" is to be saved, it urgently needs "understanding" from the West. This means credit, investment, and commercial facilities. Trade and Cooperation with the EEC [subhead]

The Hungarians criticized Paris for hindering the signing of a trade and cooperation agreement with the EEC, of which the Germans are the most fervent advocates in the West. Jean-Bernard Raimond emphatically assured them of his full political support. He said that he had given firm instructions to the competent French departments to help speed up the signing of this agreement and he recalled that France, unlike some of its EEC partners, has already lifted most of the quantitative restrictions which it had previously imposed on Hungarian products. However, the minister expressed the hope that the Hungarians will make some goodwill gestures—which they are so far refusing to do, invoking their economic problems—aimed at opening up their market to French products.

Mr Raimond also announced that a delegation of experts would be sent to study the possibilities for scientific and technical cooperation in some spheres (notably computers, telecommunications, and the civilian nuclear industry).

There was also agreement on holding consultations between experts from the two countries on disarmament questions—a fairly new practice between France and the Eastern bloc countries.

While welcoming the efforts made by the Hungarian to teach French (particuarly the creation of bilingual secondary schools), Jean-bernard Raimond expressed the hope for a rapid removal of the administrative obstacles which have so far delayed the start of the construciton of a new French cultural institute in Budapest. The minister was not able to give many promises on the visa requirement for Hungarians wishing to visit France who are irritated by this constraint imposed by a Western country when their authorities allow them to travel very freely.

To stress the French desire to revive political relations between the two countries, Jean-Bernard Raimond gave the Hungarian prime minister an invitation in principle to visit Paris. He also gave Mr Kadar a copy of a message from Jacques Chirac which the prime minister did not have time to sign because he was busy with the election campaign. "The original will follow...."

Ministry of Foreign Affairs News Conference

LD252251 Budapest MTI in English
1954 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Budapest, March 25 (MTI)—The spokesman of the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs gave an international press conference in Budapest Friday on the Hungarian-French foreign ministerial talks, the Central American situation and conditions in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories.

Outlining the statement of the Hungarian Foreign Ministry, Istvan Komoroczki first spoke about the Hungarian-French foreign ministerial talks which started on Thursday. He stressed that with regard to the outstanding international role of France, we attach great importance to the visit of Foreign Minister Jean-Barnard Raimond. The two countries have traditionally favourable political ties on the highest level, which fit integrally into the system of East-West relations. This was particularly evident in the period from 1982 to 1984, when the two countries undertook and urged the holding of high-level political meetings. That time Francois Mitterrand visited Budapest, and Janos Kadar travelled to France. In addition to promoting bilateral relations, these meetings were also aimed at maintaining the dialogue between East and West, he said. The spokesman emphasized Hungary's intention to continue to be a partner in joint efforts and initiatives along this line. On the present talks, he said both parties pointed out the lag of economic contacts behind the level of political cooperation and possibility. they urged progress also in the economic field. In connection with the talks on the relations of Hungary and the Common Market, the Foreign Ministry considers it favourable that the French party expressed the unambigous political will of their government, urging that the European community and Hungary reach a mutually satisfactory agreement. Hungary continues to rely on France representing a supporting stance toward the conclusion of the agreement at the next committee sessions. Finally, he expressed the hope that the visit of the French foreign minister will open up further vistas in the development of bilateral relations.

Istvan Komoroczki next dealt with the Central American situation. To begin with, he stated that Hungarian diplomacy takes an active and responsible part in the international efforts to safeguard peace, improve East-West relations and reduce the role of armament and military factors.

The Hungarian public opinion has learnt with profound anxiety of the sharpening situation in Central America. It considers it condemnable if a Central American country makes it possible to carry out military operations from its territory against neighbouring Nicaragua. Power demonstration, the use of economic pressure and political threat and unilateral military action are contrary to the U.N. Charter and the principles and norms of international law. This policy hinders the implementation of the peace process supported by the Latin American countries and international communities, as well as of the agreement of the five Central American heads of state in the interest of lasting peace, economic rise and greater democracy. The spokesman pointed out the Hungarian Government and society highly appreciate the firm commitment of the Nicaraguan Government toward creating peace and good-neighbourly relations in Central America. He recalled that Nicaragua is ready to settle disputes with the Honduras Government by way of negotiations, it permits international verification in the

country's territory, it has started direct talks with representatives of armed counter-revolution and is willing to resume bilateral links with the government of the United States. In conclusion, he stated the Hungarian public opinion appreciates the mighty efforts of the Nicaraguan Government and people at developing internal democracy and the multi-sectoral economic system to improve the living conditions of the people even amid the difficult economic situation.

Then the spokesman called to mind that mass protest by the Palestinian people have been going on for more than 100 days in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories. The international public and various forces of social progress, including Hungarian society, have raised their voice more than once against the Armed Israeli violence which claims numerous civilian victims among the unarmed Palestinian population. However, the bloody events have not ceased despite the unambigous anxiety of the world's public opinion. The spokesman stressed that the situation caused by the perpetuated armed violence of Israel poses a grave threat to international peace and security. The just and lasting settlement of the Middle East crisis and the Palestinian issue can no longer be delayed. It is indispensable to shortly convene an international press conference with the participation of all concerned parties, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, and to guarantee the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, he said.

With regard to the closure of the New York office of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the spokesman read the statement published by Hungary's U.N. representatives in New York on March 1 and 21, saying, 'any attempt by the host country to prevent the maintenance of the New York office of the Palestine Liberation Organization is contrary to the U.N. Charter and the spirit and provisions of the U.N.O-U.S.A agreement on the U.N. headquarters. Such attempts are incompatible with the Resolution No. 3,237 of the General Assembly, under which the PLO participates in the work and sessions of the General Assembly in observer's capacity. We call on the host country to refrain from all moves which hamper or obstruct the permanent U.N. observer's office in New York of the Palestine Liberation Organization in carrying out its official duties...'

Following, the spokesman outlined the foreign ministerial statement on the recently renewed Iraqi-Iranian war. He said that the Hungarian foreign minister expressed concern and alarm over the new escalation of the Iraqi-Iranian war, the actions against the civilian population and the senseless destruction. He pointed out that continuation of the war causes unnecessary sufferings to the peoples of Iran and Iraq, destroys the economies of the two countries and gravely endangers the goods and interests of the citizens of countries not involved directly in the war. Extension of the conflict may serve as a subterfuge for the intervention of unwarranted external forces. The Foreign Ministry is hopeful that the belligerent parties will display self-restraint and the increasingly painful events will soon lead to the sole way of settling the conflict: the negotiated settlement observing the just interests of the opposing parties, in keeping with the Resolution No. 598 of 1986 of the U.N. Security Council.

Further on the spokesman answered questions. Asked about the Hungarian-French foreign ministerial talks, he said that France, in view of the travel regulations introduced in Hungary on January 1, will adopt measures to facilitate the entry of Hungarian tourists into France. The spokesman did not elaborate, and placed emphasis on the definite promise of the French side to show greater flexibility in the field. The correspondent of RUDE PRAVO inquired about the Foreign Ministry stand on the case of the Czechoslovak citizens arrested in Guatemala on charges of spying. For lack of adequate information, the spokesman made no comment, but promised to reply at a later date.

Greek CP Delegation Arrives, Opens Talks

LD281144 Budapest MTI in English 1055 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] Budapest, March 28 (MTI)—On Monday Kharilaos Florakis, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Greece-Exterior, arrived in Budapest on the invitation of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party. He is accompanied by Spiros Stathakis [name as received], member of the Central Committee, and Dimous Foudalis [name as received], staffer of the Central Committee Press Office.

The delegation was welcomed at Ferihegy Airport by Matyas Szuros, secretary of the HSWP Central Committee.

Shortly after the arrival, the negotiating groups of the two parties, headed by Charilaos Florakis and Matyas Szuros, started official talks at the HSWP CC Headquarters.

Mexico's Echeverria Meets Nemeth, Others

LD261823 Budapest MTI in English 1616 GMT 26 Mar 88

[Text] Budapest, March 26 (MTI)—Former Mexican President Luis Echeverria, deputy chairman of the World Peace Council visited Hungary on the occasion of the spring festival on March 24-26.

He met Karoly Nemeth, president of the Presidential Council, Matyas Szuros, president of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly, Jozsef Marjai, deputy prime minister, Peter Varkonyi, minister of foreign affairs and Janos Hoos, president of the National Planning Office. Luis Echeverria met Jozsef Bognar, executive director of the Economy Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Mihaly Simai, director of the World Economy Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Echeverria donated fine arts pieces to the Budapest Museum of the Workers' Movement.

Party Worker Delegation Visits India 19-24 Mar

LD260202 Budapest MTI in English 2100 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Budapest, March 25 (MTI)—Laszlo Gyuricza, member of thew HSWP Central Committee and first secretary of the Veszprem County party committee headed the party worker delegation which visited India at the invitation of the Communist Party of India on March 19-24.

The delegation met Rajenswara Rao, secretary general of the CPI [Communist Party of India]. They discussed the contemporary questions of both parties' activities, the situation of the international communist and worker movements and the possibilities of the development of the inter-party relationships.

The HSWP delegation met General Secretary Elamkutat Mara Namboodiripad of the Communist Party of India-Marxist who briefed on the strenghtening cooperation between the two communist parties of India.

Laszlo Gyuricza met Romesh Bandari, head of International Affairs Department of the ruling Indian National congress Party and San Pitrada scientific and technological advisor of the Indian prime minister. At these meetings the development of the relations between the HSWP and the Indian National Congress Party and the experiences of the modernization efforts of both countries were discussed.

The HSWP delegation returned to Hungary on Friday.

Deputy Prime Minister Meets Cuban Counterpart

LD261820 Budapest MTI in English 1603 GMT 26 Mar 88

[Text] Budapest, March 26 (MTI)—Jozsef Marjai, deputy prime minister of Hungary met on Sunday with Jose A. Lopez Moreno, deputy prime minister of Cuba and president of the Cuban State Planning Committee, who visited Hungary on March 25-26. At the meeting they reviewed the contemporary questions of the Hungarian-Cuban economic relations. Jose A. Lopez Moreno met Janos Hoos, president of the Hungarian National Planning Office.

Gaspar-Led TU Delegation Leaves for Ethiopia

LD271706 Budapest MTI in English 1739 GMT 27 Mar 88

[Text] Budapest, March 27 (MTI)—A Hungarian trade union delegation, headed by Sandor Gaspar, president of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), left for Addis Ababa, to the 39th session of the WFTU's bureau. The agenda of the meeting includes the relations of the trade unions to the nuclear disarmament, development of the information network of the WFTU and the fortification of the solidarity with the workers of Africa.

Leaders' Public Appearances 18-21 March

AU261928 [Editorial Report] Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian from 19 to 24 March and Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP of 19 March report on the public appearances of the following Hungarian leaders between 18 and 21 March (source, date, and page number of each report is given in parentheses):

Karoly Grosz, chairman of the Council of Ministers; and Ferenc Havasi, member of the MSZMP Politburo and first secretary of the Budapest MSZMP Committee, attended the opening ceremony of the Budapest Spring Festival held at the Hungarian National Gallery in Budapest on 18 March. (MAGYAR HIRLAP, 19 Mar, p 1)

Jozsef Marjai, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of trade; and Peter Varkonyi, minister of foreign affairs, received Willibald Pahr, general secretary of the World Tourism Organization, who was visiting Hungary on the occasion of the Budapest Spring Festival; date and place not given. (NEPSZABADSAG, 24 Mar, p 8)

Csaba Hamori, member of the MSZMP Politburo and first secretary of KISZ, presented an award to the Young Communists of the Hidashat State Cooperative at the Kosargyar Cultural Center in Bekes County on 18 March. (NEPSZABADSAG, 19 Mar, p 3) He also received representatives of 21 friendship societies visiting Hungary on the occasion of a 5-day event held by the Hungarian Cultural Institute; at the KISZ Budapest headquarters on 19 March. (NEPSZABADSAG, 21 Mar, p 6)

Istvan Szabo, member of the MSZMP Politburo and chairman of the Agricultural Cooperatives National Council, paid a working visit to Fejer County on 18 March and met with party and county officials and managers of cooperatives. (NEPSZABADSAG, 19 Mar, p 6)

Laszlo Marothy, member of the MSZMP Politburo and minister of environmental protection and water management, attended a wreath-laying ceremony held at the Hungarian Republic of Councils Memorial in Budapest on the occasion of the 69th anniversary of the Hungarian Republic of Councils on 21 March. (NEPSZABADSAG, 22 Mar, p 1) On 21 March he also paid a visit to Budapest's 16th District, attended a briefing by county officials and met with workers and residents. (NEPSZABADSAG, 22 Mar, p 5)

Matyas Szuros, secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee and chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly, received Hubert Martin, chairman of the Cultural Committee of the French Senate and chairman of the Hungarian-French friendship society, on 18 March; place not given. (NEPSZABADSAG, 19 Mar, p 21, filed as AU251254)

Briefs

Medgyessy in Austria

Budapest, March 26 (MTI)—Peter Medgyessy, Hungarian deputy prime minister visited Austria on March 25-26. He had negotiations with Vice-Chancellor and Minister of Foreign Affairs Alois Mock. He met Robert Graff, minister of economy and Ferdinand Lacina, minister of finance. At the discussions the contemporary issues of the bilateral relations were reviewed. Special empahsis was placed on the enlargement of the economic and financiaal cooperation between the two countries. The opportunities for enlarging inter-company links were evaluated. At the meetings Laszlo Kovacs, deputy minister of foreign affairs and Janos Nagy, Hungarian ambassador to Vienna were also present. [Text] *[LD270011 Budapest MTI in English 2153 GMT 26 Mar 88]*

Security Forces Arrest Pacifists in Warsaw
LD261856 Hamburg DPA in German
1818 GMT 26 Mar 88

[Text] Warsaw (DPA)—At least 10 members of the Polish pacifist group "Freedom and Peace" (WIP) were arrested in Warsaw today. As the spokesman for the group, Jacek Czaputowicz, announced, officers from the security service entered the flat of Dr Konstanty Radziwill, where WIP members from all parts of the country had assembled for a meeting of the "financial council."

The flat was searched and all present taken away. The council had often met before without being bothered by the security authorities. Its task is to collect donations for the organization and to prepare campaigns. In Gdansk today, a member of the organization was fined DM200 by a disciplinary court. He and another young man had displayed a banner on a roof that supported the release of political prisoners. His friend was able to escape.

Politburo's 23 Mar Session Examined
AU281103 Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish
24 Mar 88 pp 1, 3

[Text] PAP—On 23 March, the PZPR Politburo viewed the major current problems in the country's socioeconomic situation and the tasks resulting from it. The Politburo stated that the program of radical economic changes is creating momentous possibilities. They must not be wasted.

The Politburo said that the assessments contained in PZPR First Secretary Wojciech Jaruzelski's address to the 10th ZSL Congress should be urgently translated into concrete decisions addressed to party bodies and the state and economic administration. Earlier Central Committee and Politburo decisions and guidelines on introducing the second stage of the reform have confirmed this need.

The Politburo stressed that the main purpose of these decisions is to protect and accelerate the reform that is being undertaken, improve the effectiveness of the activity that has begun, and gain the expected results sooner. All this is essential in order to complete the difficult initial phase of the second stage of the reform as quickly as possible. The speed of the reform that we have undertaken will be advantageous to working people and conforms to the basic precepts of the trade unions and workers' self-management.

The understanding and patience that the authorities ask of society must be accompanied by energetic action by all the forces committed to the reform process, plus efficient activity by the government and state and economic administration at all levels.

Scientific institutes and economic organizations should play a much greater part in the rapid preparation and implementation of further changes.

The Politburo paid special attention to the phenomenon of the waste of work results and the irresponsibility and disregard for economic reality and social objectives by some enterprises when making price or wage decisions. The Politburo reiterated the importance of a proper selection of cadres, who must prove equal to the increasing requirements of the second stage of the economic reform. These problems will be also discussed by the Seventh PZPR Central Committee Plenum and will be analyzed in detail during the preparations for a review of directors. This review must be planned and organized urgently and energetically.

It is necessary to accelerate job certifications and the review of structural organizations, said the Politburo. The delays in this sphere are particularly evident. The Politburo will examine these issues in detail next month. Among other things, it is essential to carry out suitable institutional changes in order to enforce much-desired, rational improvements to work organization and the use of work resources.

Legislation designed to make the reform more effective must be pushed through ahead of schedule. The austerity program and amendments to the 1986-90 National Socioeconomic Plan concerning, among other things, structural changes to the economy and paths of investment must be prepared more quickly. Priority should be given to those spheres that determine scientific progress and those undertakings that increase production results and reduce production costs.

The Politburo discussed the preparations for the national control campaign, which is meant to improve the work of offices, public and communal services, and the retail trade.

The Politburo called on the government to adopt Wojciech Jaruzelski's address to the 10th ZSL Congress as instructions for intensive activity in the nearest future.

The Politburo adopted draft changes to the system of control. These are justified by the frequently noticed weak organization and inefficiency of economic and administrative controls, which have still not been adapted to the changes in the country, especially the tasks of economic reform.

The constant increase in orders, directives, prohibitions, norms, limits, and other requirements in recent years has led to a mushrooming of institutional bodies of control, which often merely repeat each other's work. In enterprises, cooperatives, and offices, the same problems are dealt with by control bodies and by state and social

bodies. The excessive frequency of controls means that they become pure routine. They neither raise efficiency, nor facilitate a more rapid implementation of post-control conclusions.

The Politburo decided that internal control and inspection within cooperatives should be set aside as a subject of separate analysis. Changes in these controls must be enforced more effectively by means of the mechanisms of the second stage of the economic reform.

The system of control by state administrative bodies, on which the Politburo concentrated, envisages changes in control functions, a delimitation of control powers, and the setting in order of organizational structures. A restructuring of the state apparatus of control should establish clear powers, make controls less frequent, and improve coordination of control. All this may already be achieved this year. The Politburo stressed that the changes in the system of control and supervision should be the result of the changes in managing the national economy and in the functioning of the state administration. It recommended that work on improving the system of state control be continued in close collaboration with the Party-Government Commission for the Review and Modernization of Economic and State Organizational Structures.

The Politburo considered and adopted a programme of preparations for the Third All-Polish Theoretical-Ideological Conference, scheduled for late autumn this year. The conference will deal with theoretical problems in the process of socialist renewal, and especially with: current transformations in production relations and in the primary interests of basic social classes and strata, and the attainment of a Polish model of socialist democracy, including methods of party leadership in a reformed economy and state. The conference will examine the connection between the reforms and changes in social consciousness, as well as the international conditions for renewal. The Third All-Polish Theoretical-Ideological Conference will be preceded by a series of seminars, the fruits of which will provide the basis for the conference debate. These seminars will be organized by key centers of social sciences, scientific societies, and so on.

The preparations for the conference should revive ideological life within the party by means of broad discussions by PZPR aktivs and members on the subject of the ideological and social aspects of the socialist transformations.

Historian Views History's 'Blank Spots'
LD262107 Warsaw PAP in English
1917 GMT 26 Mar 88

["Blank Spots Under X-Ray Eye"—PAP headline]

[Text] Warsaw, March 26—Professor Jarema Maciszewski, the president of the PUWP Academy of Social Sciences and co-chairman of the Commission of Polish and Soviet historians, is known to seldom give interviews. He admitted as much in an interview he granted to the weekly PERSPEKTYWY and volunteered that this was caused by difficulties with presenting definite and explicit findings while the commission continued its research.

And we do not want to work under stress, in a climate of being hurried on, Professor Maciszewski said, since the point here is not to secure a scoop or to make it to the frontpage headlines, but to provide a quiet explanation of the whole truth about the difficult problems of common past.

I must admit that even when we were designing a method for so broadly outlined work, the choice of problems alone was not all that easy. Should we start with the 17th century, when Poles turned up in Moscow as uninvited guests, or with the 18th century, when Russians made a similar appearance in Warsaw and stayed here long after 1814.

But if we approached the problems chronologically we would be accused of doing so with an intent to push away or to hide the truth about modern history which is difficult and painful in many of its respects.

In one of its interview questions, the PERSPEKTYWY touched upon the issue of re-settling the Polish population deep into the Soviet Union. The weekly recalled that the weekly PRZEGLAD TYGODNIOWY had written about a million of displaced Poles, that the daily ZYCIE WARSZAWY had not excluded a higher figure, while another periodical KONFRONTACJE had discussed 700 thousand Poles driven deep into the USSR, force-drafted into the Red Army or evacuated.

This is exactly why there are different estimates and they need to be fully verified, Professor Maciszewski said. The only thing that these discrepancies prove is that without some new sources it is hard to speak about the phenomenon's completely unbiased picture.

From the methodological point of view, we have managed to do something important: We have made a systematic classification of major migration groups.

And thus, the first group was composed of interned enlisted men, warrant and commissioned officers of the Polish Army. Their fates varied.

Most enlisted men and a large proportion of warrant officers were after a time released (they turned up later in the armed forces under General Anders or in the 1st Polish Army), while most commissioned officers were placed in the camps of Kozelsk (Kozielsk), Starobelsk (Starobielsk) and Ostaskov (Ostaszkow). In the latter one, also warrant officers of the Eastern-Frontier Defence Corps (KOP), police officers and the like were confined.

It is common knowledge that out of all the commissioned officers only a group of 400 was found, since they had been transported to the camp of Grazovec (Griazowiec).

Full determination of the fates of the others and disclosure of all the circumstances of the Katyn crime are two of the commission's most important tasks. Intensive search for source materials continues as the tragedy must be studied with special insight.

We are very far advanced with a scientific publication of synethetic nature which should expand the knowledge of the period immediately preceding the outbreak of the Second World War and covering the first months of the war itself.

Scheduled to be released on the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of WW2, the publication includes a more detailed discussion of the whole assortment of problems related to the Red Army's invasion of the eastern territories of the then Polish state.

As a sort of a side comment, I would like to take a stand towards the accusation addressed to us by the Parisian KULTURA which says that we are weakening Molotov's comment on Polish affairs. In this case, it is a purely linguistic dispute and it boils down to an assessment of adequacy in the Polish translation of the Russian phrase "urodlivoye detishtche versalskovo dogovora" [monstrous creation of the Versailles Treaty].

The charges of weakening the phrase's meaning is to my mind a classical platform of argument with us. The most important thing here is not what is more insulting: whether it is "bastard" or "miscarried foetus", or some other rendition of that disgraceful phrase. But the point is that such methods are used in attempts to question the honesty of our work.

Other topics for analysis include also the contribution of Polish people into the home-front war effort, assistance rendered by Poles to Soviet prisoners of war or to Soviet intelligence in the general government or in the Reich itself.

In this respect, Soviet comrades put forward proposals here to the effect of honouring the memory of about a million of Soviet POWs murdered by the Nazis in Polish territories, and at the same time they want to show how the Polish population assisted fugitive POWs.

Further Reportage on ZSL Congress

Malinowski Address

LD251046 Warsaw PAP in English
2156 GMT 24 Mar 88

["Malinowski's Closing Address—Abridged"—PAP headline; speech was delivered at 24 March ZSL Congress session held in Warsaw]

[Text] Warsaw, March 24—The congress alone solves nothing but it defines problems and matters that need to be sorted out, solved, or continued.

All our efforts, intentions, concerns, hopes, and decisions are totally subordinated to one most important cause. This cause is Poland—a strong Poland, wisely governed, honestly working, wealthy, providing its people with conditions for a stable and dignified life.

By declaring outselves so decidedly and clearly in favour of faster reforms, democratic changes, sweeping re-arrangement of our economic and social life, we are thinking of exactly such a home, such a future for the nation.

The reform is our great national chance. But let us tell this to ourselves frankly: It is also our inescapable necessity. We simply have no other choice. If we couldn't start reforms or carry them our promptly, we would quickly move beyond Europe's economic and political sidelines with all consequences of the fact. Time is increasingly costly to Poland. We are using it increasingly better on all planes of our life and work.

Our country has reached a vital point. Changes now ongoing in Poland are of fundamental significance to our future. Literally everything depends on their success.

While declaring ourselves in favour of the re-construction of our life, giving support to reforms and transformations, we cannot and we are not allowed to end at that. Reforms must be fought for because the process of reforms is introduced through struggle.

There can be no turning back from the reforms. Determination in this great work comes simply from our people's patriotic duty.

All our Polish agriculture attaches concrete hopes to the economic reform. It is right to see its chance for creating better conditions for the development of production and improvement of the quality of life of the peasant families.

Success of economic reforms is closely related to the transformations in the public and political domain.

We listened attentively to PUWP CC First Secretary Wojciech Jaruzelski's address delivered from the rostrum of the 10th PUWP Congress on issues fundamental to our people and state.

We consider it as a manifestation of respect for the UPP as a coalition ally but at the same time as a permanent expansion of platforms of our cooperation for the sake of acceleration of the reforms, concrete and consistent [passage indistinct]

Attended by Jaruzelski

LD251054 Warsaw PAP in English
1413 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Warsaw, March 24—The final part of the UPP 10th Congress debates followed after a break. Present were representatives of the highest authorities with Wojciech Jaruzelski.

Roman Malinowski informed the congress about the composition of the Presidium of the UPP Central Committee, named by the first meeting of the newly-elected UPP Central Committee.

Czeslaw Jaworski, Jozef Kozoil, Jozef Kukulka, Dominik Ludwiczak, and Tadeusz Szelachowski have been elected vice-chairmen of the UPP CC.

Secretaries of the UPP CC: Kazimierz Fortuna, Bogdan Krolewski, Kazimierz Olesiak, and Roman Szarka.

Chairman of the Main Audit Committee: Mieczyslaw Grabek.

Chairman of the Main Party Tribunal of the UPP: Czeslaw Ura.

Congress Concludes

LD251052 Warsaw PAP in English
2237 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Warsaw, March 24—The 10th Congress of the United Peasant Party [UPP] the highest forum of the peasant movement, wound up today, after having adopted a resolution on the most important tasks of the UPP in solving the problems of Poland, the countryside and agriculture.

The congress endorsed the complex program of radical socio-economic reforms and called on all the UPP members to actively partake in the implementation of the Polish transformations. It also spoke out in favour of more effective activities aimed at a consistent implementation of the agrarian policy of the PUWP and the UPP and of the faster production and civilizational progress of the countryside.

The returns of elections for the supreme authorities of the UPP held on Wednesday were announced today. In a secret ballot the congress elected a 171-strong chief committee of the UPP, 75 alternate members of the CC, a 57-strong main audit commission and a 57-strong main party court.

The newly elected supreme authorities of the UPP held their first plenary session.

Roman Malinowski informed the congress that during the plenary session the following UPP CC vice chairmen were elected: Czeslaw Jaworski, a farmer from the Ciechanow Voivodship, Vice Premier Jozef Koziol, Jozef Kukulka, vice chairman of the National Council of the Patriotic Movement for National Rebirth Pron, Dominik Ludwiczak, a farmer from the Poznan voivodship and Tadeusz Szelachowski, vice president of the Council of State.

This morning the congress discussed important issues of the countryside and agriculture, the economy and the state. The opinions expressed during the discussion were full of concern for the strengthening of the UPP's position, for securing a more prosperous future for the countryside, and for creating lasting foundations for Poland's self-sufficiency.

The UPP congress today adopted—with 4 abstentions—changes and amendments to the statute of the UPP. They constitute a generalization of broad discussion carried out in pre-congress campaign and at the same time draw from the experience gathered after the 9th UPP congress.

One of the more significant amendments is the introduction of equal terms of office at all levels of the UPP. An entry has been, therefore, made reading that "the assembly of delegates is convened by communal committees or committees of equal rank once in every four years," while thus far it was convened once in every two years.

The resolutions committee proposed the introduction of changes and amendments to the draft resolution of the 10th congress on the tasks of the UPP in solving the problems of the development of Poland, the countryside and agriculture. Having taken these proposals into account, the [passage indistinct].

TU Leader Criticizes International Bodies

LD242026 Warsaw PAP in English
1850 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Warsaw, March 24—In an interview he gave to the weekly SPRAWY I LUDZIE which was later reprinted by the labour weekly ZWIAZKOWIEC, chairman of the All-Poland Alliance of Trade Unions (OPZZ) Alfred Miodowicz defined the position of new Polish class trade unions on the international arena.

"Polish labour movement," Miodowicz said, "participates in the operation of the globally biggest international labour organization which is the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)."

"In December 1984, representatives of the OPZZ sat at the Moscow session of the WFTU bureau and considered their participation as the beginning of presenting our ideological and programmic tenets, our statutes, structure and, generally speaking, the objectives and principles of our operation, to WFTU members.

"With a splendid majority of WFTU members we have encountered undestanding. Some of them, however, such as for example the Confederation Generale du Travail (CGT) [France] or our Japanese colleagues, had to have a lot of things explained to them.

"Electing representatives of our labour movement to positions both in the WFTU bureau and council stands for an expression of acceptance of our unique character," Miodowicz said.

"Trying to renew international contacts, at first at the level of individual unions and only later as the OPZZ, we made efforts to return to Geneva, to the International Labour Organization (ILO)," OPZZ chairman continued.

"As a result of the efforts made by our movement and supported by the Polish Sejm, we could join the Polish delegation to the 1987 World Labour Conference (ILC) in Geneva. Representing the interests of Polish employees, our people went also to the subsequent European Labour Conference and maritime conference as part of the Polish delegation."

"This," Miodowicz went on, "should be considered as a first step towards complete return to the ILO in the period of suspended membership. We view this as a positive phenomenon since we maintain that our unions have not only the right but also a duty to participate in annual June conferences, to represent there the interests of Polish working people, and to take the floor on the issues of the working people of the world."

Referring to tha attitudes of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) and of the World Confederation of Labour (WCL) towards Poland, Alfred Miodowicz said:

"They still think that the 'Solidarnosc' or more precisely, what is left of it, or rather the persons of Lech Walesa and his team, represent Polish labour movement. The ideal for them would be if the disbanded 'Solidarnosc' were legalized, and only then, according to what they declare, they would make peace with the OPZZ."

"It is doubtful," Miodowicz speculated, "whether they would make peace with other trade unions that might be established in Poland under the pluralism the way they understand it. After all, there are still some 2,600 various unions which operate outside the OPZZ structure."

"Both labour organizations, and particularly certain national unions which are members of the two Western confederations, are aware of the complexity of situation. They know first of all that a close interrelation with big politics, and not quite labour politics at that, is involved here.

"Those who engaged at one time in supporting the 'Solidarnosc' and who are not giving up their support for its figure-heads do not want to admit that it is a losing card they are playing. For this would be nothing but an admission of defeat.

"I think that, given time, realism is going to gain the upper hand. I am relying in my opinions upon working contacts we maintain with numerous organization affiliated in the two confederations.

"Naturally, dispute over the fact that the then 10 million members was more than the present 7 millions is only seemingly a dispute," Moidowicz stressed. "The real situation is that our new unions group 7 million members, that they openly and efficiently represent the interests of the working people in Poland and that it would really take ill-will not to notice all this," concluded the OPZZ chairman.

Military Council Session Communique Released

LD252155 Warsaw Television Service in Polish 1830 GMT 25 Mar 88

["Communique" on a session of the National Defense Ministry Military Council; date of issue not given]

[Text] The National Defense Ministry Military Council held a meeting chaired by Army General Wojciech Jaruzelski, head of the PPR Armed Forces. The Military Council acquainted itself with the promotion to date of the Jaruzelski Plan and the proposals, presented by National Defense Minister Army General Florian Siwicki, for further undertakings that could be carried out as part of its implementation.

The council made an assessment of the Armed Forces' services to date to the national economy and also to science, culture, and the protection of society's health. It accepted further plans in this sphere, stressing in particular the need for a greater concentration of forces, including those better equipped with the appropriate technical equipment, which would enable better economic results to be achieved. The initiatives contained in the appeal of the youth council of the Polish Army to soldiers and Army employees was accorded recognition.

The council evaluated the state of work on amending the act on the universal duty to defend the PPR. The importance of the constitutional statement that the defense of the homeland is the most sacred duty of every citizen was stressed. The proposal to modify the regulations on alternative forms of service [zastepczych form sluzby] was positively assessed. The directions of legislative work were accepted in this sphere.

The Military Council accepted the program of celebrations of the 45th anniversary of the creation of the Polish People's Army, stressing its educational and profoundly patriotic significance.

Referring to the 45th anniversary jubilee and to the processes of transformation taking place in the country and in the international arena, the head of the Armed Forces outlined the tasks arising from this. In this context, the proposals for modernized wordings of the form of the Army Oath, the officer's and officer cadet's oaths at officer training colleges, and the promise of pupils of military secondary schools were examined.

At the conclusion of the deliberations Army General Wojciech Jaruzelski, on behalf of the party and state leadership, stressed the important historical and contemporary role of the service and duties of the Polish People's Army. The head of the Armed Forces warmly thanked the cadres, the soldiers on basic military service, and Army employees for their conscientious and fruitful service. He also stated that the Army will stand constantly and effectively on guard over the homeland's borders and the peaceful, secure development of the socialist state.

Messner, Wick Discuss Prospects for Cooperation

LD251443 Warsaw PAP in English
1227 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Warsaw, March 25—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Zbigniew Messner received today the head of the U.S. Information Agency Charles Wick. They discussed the development prospects of Polish-American relations with particular regard to the exchange of information and cooperation in the field of science and technology as well as culture.

The meeting was attended by Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Tadeusz Olechowski. Present was U.S. Ambassador John R. Davis.

Figures 'Imagined' in Broadcast on Homeless

LD260030 Warsaw PAP in English
2228 GMT 25 Mar 88

["Radio Free Europe and 'Homeless Poles'"—PAP headline]

[Text] Warsaw, March 25—You can write about anything in Poland. With no exception. The times are gone when mass media avoided drastic or delicate social topics. Some periodicals featured also stories on people who are socially maladjusted or mentally handicapped in some way, and who prefer to live their lives literally in the streets instead of living in nursing homes of all kinds. There are several dozen or more such people in Warsaw. In modern times, every big city has those people. Western metropolises record up to twenty thousand of them. Paris with her Clochards or New York's Manhattan quarter of Bowery and its tramps (the so-called derelicts) can be named as examples here.

Following the practice observed in Munich this time as well, the openness of Polish press served as an inspiration for Radio Free Europe. In her programme of March 20, Danuta Drzewinska struck an alarm bugle over "homeless Poles".

She quotes figures which she must have imagined and she seems to forget that even those who wait till their number on the list is ticked off wait for their own flats to be shared with no one.

Better or worse standards, but they all have a place to live, while the people's councils make sure that substitute council flats are given to those who are genuinely homeless, for example, as a result of fire or other natural disaster.

As usual in its programme, Radio Free Europe fails to notice a slight difference between Poland and Western countries. In the West, big and rich metropolises have truly homeless people and families living in morbid slums, most renowned of which could well be New York's Harlem or Los Angeles' Watts. At the same time, these cities have tens of thousands of empty flats waiting for customers with wallets bulky enough.

Western Media Puzzled by Lack of Social Unrest

LD272034 Warsaw PAP in English
1910 GMT 27 Mar 88

[Text] Warsaw, March 27—Why is there no social unrest in Poland despite dramatic increase in the prices on foodstuffs, industrial goods, transportation service, etc., deliberate the known circles based beyond Polish borders. Much lower hikes in meat prices had cost the previous cabinets their power, Deutschlandfunk radio commented recently. But not today, laments Tadeusz Volk, "barring the satirical demonstration of young people on the streets of Wroclaw and the not too determined striking reflexes." Price hikes were accepted peacefully.

Reporting on this disquiet in Western mass media, GLOS WIELKOPOLSKI writes that some commentators themselves, for example those of the FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG, give an explanation to this unexpected—to them—attitude of Polish society. In their opinion there are two causes of this: The party under the leadership of Wojciech Jaruzelski has drawn the right lessons from the past experiences, while the state of social awareness has undergone substantial changes.

FRG Deporting Poles With Invalid Visas

LD260135 Warsaw PAP in English
2244 GMT 25 Mar 88

[By PAP correspondent Eugeniusz Guz]

[Text] Bonn, March 25—Naturally, it is not Polish nationals whose travel documents are in order and arise no reservations that are implied in the title. [sentence as received] Immigration rigours concern those Poles who stay here illegally.

For some time now, the Polish Consulate in Cologne, the operation of which covers the entire territory of the Federal Republic, is gradually flooded with official correspondence which used to be fairly incidental in not all that distant past.

Correspondence stands here for notifications from local immigration authorities who are informing the Polish Consulate that yet another arrival from Poland has been deported beyond the FRG's borders since his or her visa's validity has long expired. There are cases where even the given person's Polish passport is no longer valid.

The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Warsaw is now issuing visas for periods no longer than three months, while local police authorities here are determined not to prolong them. This stands for an explicit suggestion that the person in question should return home, to Poland.

Unfortunately, driven by the urge to make money in a hard currency, not all Polish tourists comply with the regulations which were amended a year ago.

As a result, they stay here illegally and, at first, they receive from the authorities a warning with the deadline for their leaving the FRG enclosed. Should this fail to help, the warrant would be backed up with an administrative court order. The police deal with the remaining end of it.

The number of persons who dispute the court's expulsion order by legal means is also rapidly dwindling because earlier the costs of the lawsuit used to be covered from public funds, while now, after the immigration regulations were revised, procedure costs are charged to the applicant.

International Meeting of Peasant Parties Held

LD261348 Warsaw PAP in English
1107 GMT 26 Mar 88

[Text] Warsaw, March 26: Addressing the international conference of peasant and related parties and organizations today, Poland's Foreign Affairs Minister Marian Orzechowski stated that the characteristic feature of the Polish foreign policy was, first and foremost, a deep peaceful and humanistic character, high activity and perseverance, boldness of initiatives, openness to dialogue, agreement and cooperation with all partners.

The foreign minister presented Polish peace initiatives. The plan of decreasing armaments and increasing confidence in Central Europe forwarded by Wojciech Jaruzelski last year constitutes Poland's practical contribution to the remodeling of the security system.

Noting that ever greater attention is being attached in Polish foreign policy to ecological issues, Orzechowski stated that a Polish governmental delegation would soon appropriately express it during the 43rd session of the U.N. Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva, by presenting new proposals and initiatives forwarded by Roman Malinowski at the Warsaw Conference.

Conference Ends

LD262026 Warsaw PAP in English
1822 GMT 26 Mar 88

[Text] Warsaw, March 26—Participants in the International Conference of Peasant Parties and related organizations, which wound up here today, called the United Nations secretary general to adopt a declaration on rights and obligations of states in the field of ecology.

The proposal was presented in the conference-opening address delivered by president of the Central Committee of Poland's United Peasants' Party (UPP), Sejm Speaker Roman Malinowski.

The specific motion to dispatch a letter to this effect to Javier Perez de Cuellar was submitted, on behalf of the Danish delegation, by Thomas Bernsten. The proposal met with approval of all the delegations convened for the conference here.

It was also resolved to address such a letter to general directors of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Also today, the international forum was addressed by Poland's Minister of Foreign Affairs Marian Orzechowski.

The last person to take the floor in the plenary discussion was Algeria's Ben Yahia Ali, secretary of the Union Nationale des Paysans Algeriens.

The interest in problems of natural environment and its effective protection, he said, is dictated by the need to establish conditions for social and economic development of all north-African countries.

Nature is the property of the inhabitants of the earth, he continued. And thus, not only particular states but also entire international community must take care of its preservation or, in destroyed areas, restoration.

In conclusion of the conference, Roman Malinowski said in his closing address that the conference's course bore clearly out how important and paramount issues of man's natural environment protection were nowadays. Apart from problems of peace, ecology places in one of the top positions on the list of key problems of contemporary world.

Initial achievements on the path towards denuclearization of our planet as well as hopes for further historic steps to this end which are related to the summit meeting

of Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan, scheduled for May 29 this year, encourage to take bold actions also in other, extra-military domains, and ecology comes to the forefront of these.

It is not the first time that peasant parties and organizations take floor on these issues. And these problems, along with peace and food questions, dominate multilateral cooperation between those parties and organizations.

The Warsaw conference enriches the process of meetings that are related to the CSCE movement. The proposal which has been put forward from some time now to convene, within the framework of the CSCE summit, a European conference on precisely this issue merits strong support.

The most important issue is the proposal for the United Nations to work out a declaration of the nations on environmental protection. At the same time, the point here boils down to the problem of a free flow of technologies which serve to protect the environment, and it was on this problem that Poland's president of the Council of State Wojciech Jaruzelski focused in the proposal he presented at the Jubilee U.N. session.

Of considerable importance is also the designing of an international ecological law. The present international meeting in Warsaw seems to corroborate fully the idea of European cooperation in the field of ecology, as a special form of cooperation between East and West.

We have observed, Roman Malinowski went on, that it was high time new thinking was employed in ecological affairs. It should be viewed in terms of politics and economics, but also in moral terms.

The idea now is to make these new opinions, aired on the issue from the capital of Poland, "plant" a seed of completely new actions in the field of environmental protection. This is what we count upon. We count upon understanding and rapport with international organizations, governments and communities, said the conference's host.

After the conference closed, participants in this international meeting replied to questions from newsmen.

One of the questions dealt with popularization of achievements of the Warsaw talks by Poland. In his reply, Polish Foreign Minister Marian Orzechowski assured that Poland would make use of any possibilities to broadly promote the message and results of this forum since conclusions stemming from it matched the objectives of Polish foreign policy.

The proposals tabled at the conference will be popularized by the Polish delegations to the forthcoming U.N. European economic session in Geneva and to the next plenary session of the United Nations.

Recalling that at the U.N. 40th jubilee session Poland had voiced an initiative on international exchange of technologies which serve to protect man's natural environment, the foreign minister expressed a hope that conclusions from the Warsaw conference on ecology would be a valuable supplement to the initiative.

Court Rejects Appeals of Abdic, Pozderac
AU251700 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 24 Mar 88 p 14

[TANJUG report: "Abdic and Pozderac Appeals Rejected"]

[Text] Bihac, 23 Mar—The special tribunal [vanraspravnovece] of the Bihac Higher Court has rejected appeals by 12 people against whom charges were brought for distributing uncovered bills of exchange from Velika Kladusa's Agrokomerc and for raids on the financial system of the country. The charges that were brought against them have therefore come into force.

The special tribunal of the Bihac Higher Court found that, considering the way they had been presented, the appeals of the 12 people, who include Fikret Abdic and Hakija Pozderac, could only be discussed at the forthcoming main hearing.

FEC Notes 'Positive Results' in Economy
LD252108 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1604 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Belgrade, 25 Mar (TANJUG)—The FEC at today's session chaired by Branko Mikulic considered economic trends from the beginning of the year. It was assessed, the Federal Secretariat for Information announces, that despite deviations from established economic policy, certain positive results were achieved in some sectors. In fact, for the first time since last May, the stagnation of industrial production has been stopped, while exports have also been increased. Up to mid-March, compared to the same period last year, exports increased by 27.4 percent—by 31 percent in the convertible currency area, and by 17 percent in the clearing area. This resulted in the conversion of last year's deficit in trade with the convertible currency area into a surplus of $65.7 million in the first 2 and 1/2 months of this year. For the first time exports cover imports by more than 100 percent, and in this the extent to which exports [as received] were covered in the convertible area amounts to 104.8 percent.

Both production and the market are satisfactorily supplied. Production has, as a whole, been given a boost, as has employment. However, it was stressed, some disruptions, as shown in the destruction of the relation between supply and demand, have still not been removed. Nor has a positive turnabout taken place in labor productivity. At the same time, trends in prices at the beginning of the year indicate that strong inflationary factors, which have been operating for several years, have still not been overcome.

The implementation of the decision on the setting of price ceilings has not provided the expected results, primarily because the inflationary method of doing business still prevails. However, it was assessed, the rise in prices following the introduction of the intervention measures, which were adopted last November, is significantly lower than in preceding months. An analysis of the application of the intervention measures shows that their implementation was piecemeal, primarily because of the conflict of interests, insufficient responsibility, and the continued failure to implement laws and other regulations. A broad mobilization in terms of an examination of the major socioeconomic problems in the implementation of tasks and established developmental and economic policy has also not been carried out.

The growth in consumption continues to be a significant cause of inflation. Personal and especially general and joint consumption are following an inflation-type logic not commensurate, in realistic terms, with production and labor productivity, it was said at the FEC session.

Loncar Meets With Montenegro Leadership
LD241537 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1139 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Titograd, 24 Mar (TANJUG)—Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs, accompanied by his aides, was in Titograd today for talks with Radivoje Brajovic, president of the Montenegro Presidency; Miljan Radovic, president of the Montenegro LC Central Committee Presidium; Vuko Vukadinovic, president of the republic's Executive Council; and their aides. On this occasion views were exchanged about Yugoslavia's foreign political activity and Montenegro's participation in the efforts to realize the country's common foreign policy.

Particular attention was focused on the outcome of the conference of the Balkan countries' foreign ministers and on the recent visit to Yugoslavia by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Anti-Yugoslav Demonstration Held in Geneva
LD261957 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1831 GMT 26 Mar 88

[Text] Geneva, March 26 (TANJUG)—Some 300 Albanian nationalists and separatists today staged antiYugoslav demostrations in Geneva.

The demonstrators carried Albanian flags featuring the black eagle and banners with messages demanding the status of a republic for the Yugoslav Autonomous Province of Kosovo and grossly insulting Yugoslvaia.

The organizers of the demonstration, who particularly exert pressure on season hands from Kosovo, handed pamphlets to passers-by describing the "exploitation of Kosovo" by others parts of Yugoslavia, alleged persecution of Albanians in Yugoslavia, their "assimilation", etc.

Today's demonstrations were the third in less than a year in Geneva alone organized and permitted against Yugoslavia. In the meantime similar antiYugoslav demonstrations were staged in Bern and Zurich.

The demonstrations staged today coincide with the intensified anti-Yugoslav activity in Switzerland which culminated in a time bomb planted this week in the garden of the Yugoslav Embassy in Bern.

Arrest of Citizen on Spy Charges Protested

LD251820 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1714 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Belgrade, March 25 (TANJUG)—Undersecretary in the Yugoslav Foreign Secretariat Trajko Trajkovski today received Swiss ambassador to Yugoslav Pierre-Yves Simonin to whom he presented a protest note on the arrest of Yugoslav citizen Dragisa Stepanovic whom the Swiss authorities charge with allegedly illegal gathering of information for Yugoslavia.

The Yugoslav protest note demands that proceedings against Stepanovic who was arrested last month be stopped and that he be released.

Mojsov To Visit Spain in Early April

LD271858 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1410 GMT 27 Mar 88

[Text] Belgrade, 27 Mar (TANJUG)—Lazar Mojsov, president of the SFRY Presidency, with his wife, will make an official visit to Spain at the beginning of April at the invitation of the king and queen of Spain. This will be a reciprocal friendly visit. King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia visited Yugoslavia in 1985.

Chemical Weapon Use in Iran-Iraq War Noted

LD252040 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1637 GMT 25 Mar 88

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, March 25 (TANJUG)—The Yugoslav Government and public are deeply concerned over latest reports on the use of chemical weapons in the Iraqi-Iranian war, official spokesman of the Yugoslav Foreign Secretariat Ambassador Aleksandr Stanic stated today.

Stanic stressed that such developments can only lead to a further escalation of war and result in more victims. This once again points to the necessity of adopting and consistently implementing the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, as the only realistic basis for putting an end to the tragic conflict.

Stanic also recalled that the use of chemical weapons is inconsistent with provisions of the 1925 Geneva Protocol.

Ambassador Received by PRC Foreign Minister

LD242219 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1850 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Beijing, March 24 (TANJUG)—Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian said today that realistic possibilities exist for the advancement of otherwise fruitful and successful cooperation between China and Yugoslavia, particularly in the economy.

Minister Wu today received Yugoslav ambassador to Beijing Zvone Dragan and discussed the bilateral relations, scopes for their advancement and international questions.

It has been assessed that the two countries' political relations are excellent and that although exchanges are increasing, they are still way below the possibilities and desires of both sides.

Yugoslav-Chinese trade last year stood at 240.8 million dollars, with Yugoslav exports accounting for 136.5 million dollars and imports 104.3 million dollars.

This was 27.4 percent over 1986 but only half the planned 450-million-dollar trade volume.

Further Reportage on Djuranovic Visit to UK

Invitations to Visit Exchanged

LD241538 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1107 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] London, March 24 (TANJUG)—Member of the Yugoslav Collective State Presidency Veselin Djuranovic, who is on an official and friendly visit to Britain, has handed Queen Elizabeth the Second the Presidency's invitation to visit Yugoslavia.

In the name of the Presidency and the government, Djuranovic also invited Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to visit Yugoslavia officially.

British Secretary of State Geoffrey Howe has handed Djuranovic an invitation for Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Budimir Loncar to visit Britian.

Djuranovic Tours Cambridge

LD251001 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1557 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Excerpts] London, 24 March (TANJUG)—Veselin Djuranovic, member of the SFRY Presidency, on the 3d day of his official and friendly visit to Great Britain, today visited Cambridge. There he was briefed on the scientific and university institutions that cooperate closely with industry. [passage omitted] On his return to London, Veselin Djuranovic was a guest at a luncheon given in his honor by John Cooper, chairman of the British-Yugoslav Trade Council.

Concludes Visit to Britain

AU251613 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Veselin Djuranovic, member of the SFRY Presidency, has concluded his visit to Great Britain and has left for Belgrade. Here is Efraim Kurtagic's report from London:

Veselin Djuranovic concluded his visit to Britain today. There is an impression that the British have understood the essence of economic difficulties in Yugoslavia. The support expressed at the highest official level should be followed by steps by the British business world. True, the British tie their economic-financial engagement to the previous agreement between Yugoslavia and the IMF. They want this done as soon as possible, and they want to find a long-term basis for rescheduling debts.

Before leaving for the airport where he was seen of by the queen's personal representative, Djuranovic had talks with Yugoslav economic representatives in Britain. It was stressed that apart from its importance as a trade center, London is an important city through which Yugoslav exports to third countries flow and a point at which shipping and air transportation services are carried out. Above all, London is the world center for the main banking-financial business and credit arrangements.

Returns From UK

LD252204 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1738 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Belgrade, March 25 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav State Presidency member Veselin Djuranovic returned to Belgrade today after a four-day official and friendly visit to Great Britain at the invitation of Queen Elizabeth II.

At the end of his visit, Djuranovic had a talk in London with Yugoslav economy representatives on everything Yugoslavia is undertaking to overcome economic difficulties and on the significance of exports.

Yugoslav-British trade is developing well with a yearly increase of between 15 and 20 percent but with possibilities of increasing, it was underscored in the talk.

London was pointed out as an important center through which Yugoslav goods are marketed in third countries, a center where a great percentage of transport services are realised and primarily a world center of banking and finance operations and credit arrangements.

Yugoslav-British economic cooperation, Yugoslavia's cooperation with the E.C. and its relations with foreign creditors were the main topics of yesterday's talks between Djuranovic and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Britain showed readiness to help the overcoming of the economic crisis in Yugoslavia as soon as it meets the IMF's requests in regard to reprogramming Yugoslavia's debts.

Further Reportage on Thai Official's Visit

Rattakun Received by Mojsov

LD242056 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1352 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Belgrade, 24 Mar (TANJUG)—Lazar Mojsov, president of the SFRY Presidency, has received Phichai Rattakun, deputy prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand. During a cordial and friendly conversation Mojsov and Phichai discussed the importance that Yugoslavia and Thailand attach to the development of mutual cooperation, especially economic, and efforts that should be made to enrich it. There was also a discussion about the situation in Southeast Asia and prospects for finding a peaceful solution to the problem of Cambodia. The conversation was attended by FEC Vice President Milos Milosavljevic, Pramuan Nawabut, ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to the SFRY; and Dzon Siroka, SFRY ambassador to Thailand.

Received by Mikulic

LD242102 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1424 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Belgrade, 24 Mar (TANJUG)—FEC President Branko Mikulic received Phichai Rattakun, deputy prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, in the Palace of the Federation in Belgrade today.

The talks were also attended by FEC Vice President Milos Milosavljevic. Mikulic and Phichai exchanged views on the promotion of bilateral cooperation whose level is below the realistic possibilities of the two countries. The FEC president expressed the interest of Yugoslav work organizations in participation in investment projects in Thailand such as the construction of roads, railroads, ports, and power plants. There was also mention of the opening of a consignment deput for tin at Koper port. The two sides stressed that joint involvement in developing barter trade, joint investments, and scientific-technical cooperation is necessary in order to expand mutual cooperation.